

JOHN EVELYN'S LIFE OF
MRS. GODOLPHIN.



THE LIFE OF
MRS. GODOLPHIN

BY JOHN EVELYN

OF WOOTTON ESQ.

Now first published and

Edited by SAMUEL Lord Bishop of OXFORD

Chancellor of the Most Noble

Order of the Garter



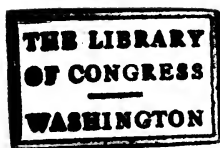
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To His Grace

E D W A R D ,

Lord Archbishop of York, Lord High Almoner,
&c.

MY LORD ARCHBISHOP,

Your Grace will, I trust, allow me to inscribe the following pages to you.

Your unmerited kindness, shown to me on many other occasions, intrusted them to me for publication ; and I well know that whilst your Grace has felt that the light of such an example as they exhibit ought not to be concealed, you rejoice to know that you have lived to see a British Court which in purity of morals and domestic virtue affords the most blessed contrast to those evil days through which Margaret Godolphin was enabled to live in the brightness of a godly purity, and to die in peace.

I have the honour to be,

*Your Grace's obliged and
affectionate*

S. OXON :

Cuddesdon Palace,
Feb. 1847.

INTRODUCTION.

THE following Memoir was drawn up by the accomplished John Evelyn, of Wootton, and intended by him for publication; but it never received his final corrections. In a manuscript paper of memoranda left at Wootton in Mr. Evelyn's hand-writing, its title occurs in a list of "Things I would write out faire and reform if I had the leisure." In his family, the MS. has remained until the present time, having passed into the hands of Mr. Evelyn's great-great-grandson,* His Grace the Honourable Edward Venables-Vernon Harcourt, Lord Archbishop of York, by whom it has been intrusted for publication to the care of the present Editor. The MS. which is written with extraordinary care and neatness, and apparently in Mr. Evelyn's own hand-

* See Table V. p. 151.

writing, has been printed almost as it stands. The original spelling, which is not uniform throughout the volume, has been preserved wherever its strangeness did not throw some obscurity over the meaning of the passage. A few words which here and there were needful to complete the sense have been conjecturally inserted, but always in brackets.

The text is illustrated by two genealogical tables, a short sketch of the life of Sir George Blagge, and a valuable body of illustrative notes, which the Editor owes to the accurate and well-furnished pen of John Holmes, Esq. of the British Museum, who has kindly contributed them to this volume.

From the genealogical table it will be seen, that Mrs. Godolphin sprang from an ancient and honourable house, and that her blood still flows in the veins of some of the most illustrious of the nobility of England. Her husband, who rose to the highest honours of the state, was early left a widower, and, surviving his wife thirty-four years, never remarried. He transmitted to Francis, their only child, the earldom of Godolphin. This Francis, 2nd Earl of Godolphin, married Hen-

rietta Churchill, eldest daughter and co-heir of John Duke of Marlborough, to whom in her own right passed the dukedom of Marlborough. By the death without issue of William Godolphin, first, Viscount Rialton, and afterwards, Marquis of Blandford,—their only son who attained to manhood,—the honours of the house of Marlborough passed to the family of Spencer from the descendants of Margaret Godolphin. By the marriage of Mary the heiress of the 2nd Lord Godolphin to Thomas the 4th Duke of Leeds, her name and blood passed into the succession of that illustrious house.

But it was not for gentle descent or noble alliance that Margaret Godolphin was the most remarkable or best deserves remembrance. Rather did she add distinction to an ancient line, and transmit to all her posterity that memory of her virtues and inheritance of good deeds without which titles and hereditary rank are but splendid contradictions and conspicuous blemishes.

Her lot was cast in the darkest age of England's morals; she lived in a court where flourished in their rankest luxuriance all the vice and littleness, which the

envy of detractors without, has ever loved to impute—and at times, thank God, with such utter falsehood—to courts in general.

In the reign of Charles the Second, that revulsion of feeling which affects nations just as it does individuals had plunged into dissipation all ranks on their escape from the narrow austerities and gloomy sourness of puritanism. The court, as was natural, shared to the full in these new excesses of an unrestrained indulgence; whilst many other influences led to its wider corruption. The foreign habits contracted in their banishment by the returning courtiers were ill suited to the natural gravity of English manners, and introduced at once a wide-spread licentiousness. The personal character, moreover, of the King helped on the general corruption. Gay, popular, and witty, with a temper nothing could cross, and an affability nothing could repress, he was thoroughly sensual, selfish, and depraved—vice in him was made so attractive by the wit and gaiety with which it was tricked out, that its utmost grossness seemed for the time rather to win than to repulse beholders. Around the King clustered a band of congenial spirits, a galaxy of corruption, who

spread the pollution upon every side. The names of Buckingham and Rochester, of Etheridge, Lyttelton, and Sedley, still maintain a bad pre-eminence in the annals of English vice. As far as the common eye could reach there was little to resist the evil. The Duke of York, the next heir to the throne, a cold-hearted libertine, shared the vices of the King, without the poor gloss of his social attractions. It was the day of England's deepest degradation, when in private life morality was a reproach, truth departed, and religion a jest; when in affairs of state French gold and foreign influence had corrupted and subdued the throned monarch, and England's King was daily losing what had been gained by the Protector of the Commonwealth.

It was a day of heartless merriment, upon which fell suddenly a night of blackness, which swallowed up its crew of godless revellers. A picture more deeply tragical than that thus simply sketched by Mr. Evelyn at the end, of Charles himself, can scarcely be conceived. "I can never forget the inexpressible luxury and prophaneness, gaming and all dissoluteness, and as it were total forgetfulness of God (it being Sunday evening) which this day se'nnight I was witness of, the

King sitting and toying with his concubines, Portsmouth, Cleaveland, and Mazarine, &c. a French boy singing love songs in that glorious gallery, whilst about 20 of the great courtiers and other dissolute persons were at Basset round a large table, a bank of at least 2000 in gold before them, upon which two gentlemen who were with me made reflexions with astonishment. Six days after was all in the dust."

Evelyn's Diary, Feb. 1684-5.

In the midst of such a general reign of wickedness, it is most refreshing to the wearied spirit to find by closer search some living witnesses for truth and holiness—some who, through God's Grace, passed at His call their vexed days amongst the orgies of that crew, as untainted by its evils, as is the clear sunbeam by the corruption of a loathsome atmosphere. Such an one was Margaret Godolphin, whom neither the license of those evil days, nor the scandal and detraction with which they abounded, ever touched in spirit or in reputation. Verily she walked in the flames of "the fiery furnace and felt no hurt, neither did the smell of fire pass upon her."

In what strength she lived this life the following pages will declare. They will show that ever by her side, conversing with her spirit through its living faith, there was a fourth form like unto the Son of God. And one thing for our instruction and encouragement may here be specially noted: that in that day of reproach she was a true daughter of the Church of England. Puritanism did not contract her soul into moroseness; nor did she go to Rome to learn the habits of devotion. In the training of our own Church she found enough of God's teaching to instruct her soul; in its lessons she found a rule of holy self-denying obedience; in its prayers a practice of devotion; in its body a fellowship with saints; in its ordinances a true communion with her God and Saviour; which were able to maintain in simple, unaffected purity her faith at court, in dutiful, active love her married life; which sufficed to crown her hours of bitter anguish and untimely death with a joyful resignation and assured waiting for her crown.

Such is the sketch presented in these pages to the reader. May he in a better day learn in secret, for

himself, those lessons of heavenly wisdom which adorned the life and glorified the death of Margaret Godolphin.

THE LIFE
OF
MRS. GODOLPHIN.

Vn Dieu vn Amy.

MADAM,

I am not vnmindfull of what your Ladyship lately suggested to me concerning that blessed Saint now in heaven. Doe you beleive I need be incited to preserve the memory of one whose Image is soe deeply printed in my heart? Butt you would have a more permanent Record of her perfections, and soe would I; not onely for the veneration wee beare her precious Ashes, butt for the good of those who, emulous of her vertues, would pursue the Instance of it, in this, or perhaps any age before it. 'Tis certaine the materialls I have by me would furnish one who were Master of a Stile becomeing soe admirable a Subject; and wish'd I have, a thousand tymes, the person in the world who knew her best, and most she loved, would give vs the picture his pencill could best delineat: if such an Artist as he is decline the vndertakeing, for fear that even with all his skill he should not reach the originall, how farr short am I like to fall, who cannot pretend to the meanest of his Talents. But as indignation (they say) sometymes creates a poem where there is no naturall

disposition in the composer ; soe a mighty obligation, a holy freindshipp, and your Ladyshipp's comands, irresistibly prevaile with me rather to hazard the censure of my Imperfections, then to disobey you, or suffer those precious memoryes to be lost which deserve consecration to Eternity : 'tis then the least and last service I can express to a dyeing friend for whom I should not have refused even to dye my selfe. Butt, Madam, you will not expect I should be soe exactly particular in the minuter circumstances of her birth and what past in her Infancy and more tender years, because, [though] I have sometimes told her pleasantly I would write her life, when God knowes I little thought of surviveing her whome often I have wished might be att the closeing of myne owne Eyes, I had not the honor of being acquainted with her till the last seaven years of her life ; I say the little expectation I had of erecting to her a monument of this nature, made me not soe Industrious to Informe myselfe of what was past as I should have beene, for I am perswaded that from the begining something of extraordinary remarkeable was all along conspicuous in her ; nor was it possible that my admiration of her vertues, when I came to know her, should not have prompted me to enquire concerneing many particulars of her life before I knew her ; something I learned casually conversing with her, diverse things from the papers communicated to me since her decease, and from what your Ladyshipp has Informed me ; from whome I might derive ample matter to furnish vpon this subject ; butt, as I said, it would become a steadier hand and the penn of an Angells wing to describe the life of a Saint,

who is now amongst those Illustrious orders: butt, Madam, 'tis your peremptorye Comand, I should sett downe what I know, and how diffident soever I ought to be of acquitting my selfe as I should, yett since 'tis hardly possible to say any thing soe indifferently, butt must raise an Emulation in those that read or hear of it to Imitate her vertues, [I enter] vpon the adventure.

Where this excellent creature was borne, I have learned from you; when, from herselfe; namely, as I remember, on the Second of August, in the year 1652; a month and a year never to be forgotten by me without a mixture of different passions, for then had I born that child whose early hopes you have often heard me deplore the loss of, nor doe I yett remember him without emotion.

'Tis not to informe your Ladyshipp of a thing you doe not know, butt for methods sake, that I speake something of the family of this Lady, which was very honorable: her father was Collonell Thomas Blagge, a Gent. of an ancient Suffolke family, and a person of soe exterordnary witt and signal Loyalty, as not only made him esteemed by that blessed Martyr Charles the First, being made Groome of his Bedd Chamber, butt to be intrusted with one of his principall Garrisons, namely that of Wallingford, dureing the late rebellion. How worthyly he acquitted himselefe of that charge in that unhappy warr, is upon another monumental Record. Hee lived to see his Majestye who now raignes restored to his Kingdomes and to dye in his favour. Mrs. Blagge, his Lady, (Mother to our Saint) was a

woman soe eminent in all the vertues and perfections of her sex, that it were hard to say whether were superior her Beauty, Witt, or Piety ; for, as I have heard from those who intimately knew her, she was in all these very like her daughter, and then I am sure there could nothing be added to render her a most admirable person. The iniquitye of the tymes had acquainted her with sorrow enough to have distracted her, being left butt in difficult circumstances, yett she lived to discharge all her husband's engagements that were very considerable, and to provide an honourable competency for noe less then 3 young daughters, whereof this was the youngest.

Itt was by this excellent mother that this rare child was as early instituted in the fear of God as she could speake : and as her exterordnary discernment soone advanced to a great and early sense of Religion, soe she brought her to be confirmed by the now Lord Bishopp of Ely, Doctor Gunning, who itt appeares was soe surprized att those early Graces he discovered in her, that he thought fitt she should be admitted to the holy Sacrament when she was hardly Eleaven years of Age : from that moment forwards, young and sprightfull as she was, she was observed to live with great circumspection, prescribing to herselfe a constant method of devotion, and certaine dayes of abstinence, that she might the better vacate to holy duties and gaine that mastery over her appetite, which, with all other passions, she had strangely subdued to my often admiration. Butt I should have told your Ladyshipp, though I remember not on what occasion, she went

with the old Dutchess of Richmond into France, who consign'd her to the care of the late Countess of Guilford, Groome of the Stoole to the late Queens Mother, with whome she continued till her Majestye came into England : And this minds me of what I have heard, that being frequently tempted by that Bygott proselitesse to go to Masse, and be a papist, our young Saint would not only not be perswaded to it, but asserted her better faith with such readiness and constancy, (as according to the argument of that keen Religion) caused her to be rudely treated and menaced by the Countess; soe as she was become a Confessor and almost a Martyr before she was 7 years old. This passage I have from her selfe and she would relate it with pretty circumstances; but long staid she not in France; when being returned to her mother, she lived with her sometyme in London, till the raigneing pestilence of Sixty-five breakeing out, every body retireing into the Country, she accompanied her into Suffolke amongst her fathers Relations there, and past the Recess with soe much order and satisfaction, that with exterordinary regrett she was taken notice of to quitt it; when being demanded by the then Dutchess of Yorke for a Maid of Honour, her Mother was prevailed with to place her little Daughter att Court. This was indeed a surprizeing change of Aire, and a perilous Climate, for one soe very young as she, and scarcely yett attained to the twelvth year of her age: butt by how much more the danger soe much greater the virtue and discretion which not only preserved her steady in that giddy Station, but soe improv'd, that the example of this little Saint influenced not onely her honour-

able companions, butt some who were advanc'd in yeares before her, and of the most illustrious quality. What! shall I say, she like a young Apostless began to plant Religion in that barren Soyle? Arethusa pass'd thro' all those turbulent waters without soe much as the least staine or tincture in her Christall, with her Piety grew vp her Witt, which was soe sparkling, accompanied with a Judgment and Eloquence soe exterdordnary, a Beauty and Ayre soe charmeing and lovely, in a word, an Address soe vni-versally takeing, that after few years, the Court never saw or had seen such a Constellation of perfections amongst all their splendid Circles. Nor did this, nor the admiration it created, the Elogies she every day received, and application of the greatest persons, at all elate her; she was still the same, allwayes in perfect good humour, allwayes humble, allwayes Religious to exactness. Itt rendred her not a whitt moross, tho' sometymes more serious, casting still about how she might continue the houres of publique and private devotion and other exercises of piety, to comply with her duty and attendance on her Royall Mistress without singularity or Reproach.

Thus pass'd she her tyme in that Court till the Dutchess dyed, dureing whose Sickness, accompanied (as it was) with many vncomfortable, circumstances, she waited and attended with an exterdordnary sedulity, and as she has sometymes told me, when few of the rest were able to endure the fatigue: and therefore here, before I proceed, I cannot but take notice of those holy and exterdordnary reflections she made upon this occa-

sion, as I find them amongst other loose papers vnder her owne faire hand, when compareing her dear Mother's sickness and other freinds departure with that of the Dutchess, thus she writes.

"Mrs. N. dead, was an example of patience vnder a burthen that was well nigh vnsupportable; often she received the blessed Sacrament, often she prayed and was very much resign'd, not surprized nor in confusion, but perceiueing her sight decay, calling vpon God after many holy and pious discourses and exhortations, she calmly bidd her freinds farewell.

"A poore woman dead, worne to skyn and bones with a consumption, she made noe Complaints, but trusted in God, and that what he thought fitt was best, and to him resign'd her soule. A poore creature that had been a great sinner, died in misserable paines, in exceeding terror; God was gracious to her, she was patient, very devout, she was released in prayer. My mother dead, at first surprized, and very vnwilling; she was afterwards resign'd, received often, prayed much, had holy things read to her, delighted in heavenly discourse, desired to be dissolv'd and be with Christ, ended her life chearfully, and without paine, left her family in order and was much lamented.

"The D -- dead, a princess, honoured in power, had much witt, much mony, much esteeme; she was full of vnspeakable tortur, and died (poore creature) in doubt of her Religion, without the Sacrament, or divine by her, like a poore wretch; none remembred her after

one weeke, none sorry for her ; she was tost and flung about, and every one did what they would with that stately carcase. What is this world, what its greatness, what to be esteemed, or thought a witt? Wee shall all be stript without sence or remembrance. But God, if wee serve him in our health, will give vs patience in our Sickness."

I repeate the instance as sett downe in her diarye, to shew how early she made these usefull and pious Recollections, for she must needs be then very young, and att an age att least when very few of her sex, and in her circumstances, much concerne themselves with these mortifyeing reflections. Butt, as I have often heard her say, she loved to be att funeralls, and in the house of mourning, soe being of the most compassionate nature in the world, she was a constant visiter of the sick and of people in distress. But, to proceed ; she had not been above two yeares att Court before her virtue, beauty, and witt made her be looked vpon as a little miracle ; and indeed there were some addresses made her of the greatest persons, not from the attraction of affected Charmes, for she was ever, att that sprightfull and free age, severely carefull how she might give the least countenance to that liberty which the Gallants there doe vsually assume of talking with less reserve ; nor did this eclipse her pretty humour, which was chearfull and easy amongst those she thought worthy her conversation. Itt is not to be described (for it was tho' naturall, in her *inimitable*) with what Grace, ready and solid vnderstanding, she would discourse. Nothing that she conceived could be better

expressed, and when she was sometymes provok'd to Raily, there was nothing in the world so pleasant, and inoffensively diverting, (shall I say) or instructive ; for she ever mingl'd her freest entertainments with something which tended to serious, and did it in such a manner, as allwayes left some impressions extraordinary even vpon those who came perhapps with inclinations to pervert the most harmeless conversations ; soe as it was impossible for any to introduce a syllable which did not comply with the strictest rules of decency.

But I shall not be soe well able to describe what I should say upon this occasion, as by giveing your Ladyshipp the measures which she prescrib'd herselfe for the government of her Actions, when she was of duty to attend vpon her Majestye in publique, and when it was not only impossible, but vnbecomeing to entertaine those who composed the Royall Circle, and were persons of the most illustrious qualitey, without censure and rudeness. Behold then, Madam, what I find written in her owne hands againe, and that might be a copy for all that succeed her in that honourable Station to transcribe and imitate it ; for she kept not onely a most acourate account of all her actions, butt did likewise register her serious purposes and resolutions, the better to confirme and fix them, soe as they were not hasty fitts of zeale and sudden transports, but sollemne and deliberate ; and this I rather chuse to doe alsoe in her owne very words and method, innocent, naturall, and vnaffected.

“ My life, by God’s Grace, without which I can doe nothing.

“ I must, till Lent, rise att halfe an houre after eight a clock ; whilst putting on morning cloathes, say the prayer for Death and the Te Deum : then presently to my prayers, and soe either dress my selfe or goe to Church prayers. In dressing, I must consider how little it signifyes to the saveing of my soule, and how foolish ’tis to be angry about a thing so unnecessary. Consider what our Saviour suffered.—O Lord, assist me.

“ When I goe into the withdrawing roome, lett me consider what my calling is : to entertaine the Ladys, not to talke foolishly to Men, more especially the King ; lett me consider, if a Traytor be hatefull, she that betrayes the soule of one is much worse ;—the danger, the sin of it. Then without pretending to witt, how quiet and pleasant a thing it is to be silent, or if I doe speake, that it be to the Glory of God.—Lord, assist me.

“ Att Church lett me mind in what place I am ; what about to ask, even the salvation of my soule ; to whome I speak,—to the God that made me, redeemed and sanctified me, and can yett cutt me off when he pleases.—O Lord, assist me.

“ When I goe to my Lady Falmouths, I ought to take paines with her about her Religion, or else I am not her friend ; to shew example by calmness in dis-

pute, in never speaking ill of anybody to her, butt excuseing them rather.

“Goe to the Queene allwayes att nine, and then read that place concerning the drawing roome, and lett my man waite for me to bring me word before publique prayers begin. If I find she dynes late, come downe, pray and read, namely, that concerning prayer; and think why I read, to benefitt my soule, pass my tyme well, and improve my understanding.—O Lord, assist me.

“Be sure still to read that for the drawing roome in the privy chamber, or presence, or other place before prayers, and soe againe into the drawing room for an hour or soe; and then slipp to my chamber and divert myself in reading some pretty booke, because the Queene does not require my waiteing; after this to supper, which must not be much if I have dyned well; and att neither meale to eate above two dishes, because temperance is best both for soule and body; then goe upp to the Queen, haveing before read, and well thought of what you have written. Amen.

“Sett not up above halfe an hour after eleaven att most; and as you undress, repeate that prayer againe; butt before, consider that you are perhappes goeing to sleepe your last; being in bedd repeate your hymne softly, ere you turne to sleepe.

“If I awake in the night lett me say that (for which she had collected many excellent passages, as I find among her papers,) psalm. Lord, assist me.

“In the morning, wakeing, use a short devotion and then as soone as ever you awake, rise immediately to praise him. The Lord assist me.”

In another place of the same Diarye, about which tyme I suppose there was some play to be acted by the maids of honour.—“Now as to pleasure, they are speaking of playes and laughing att devout people : well, I will laugh att myselfe for my impertinencyes, that by degrees I may come to wonder why any body does like me ; and divert the discourse ; and talke of God and morality : avoid those people when I come into the drawing roome, especially among great persons to divert them ; because noe raillery allmost can be innocent : goe not to the Dutchess of Monmouth above once a week, except when wee dress to rehearse, and then carry a booke along with me to read when I don't act, and soe come away before supper.

“Talke little when you are there ; if they speak of any body I can't commend, hold my peace, what jest soever they make ; be sure never to talk to the King ; when they speak filthyly, tho' I be laugh'd att, looke grave, remembring that of Micha, there will a tyme come when the Lord will bind up his jewells. Never meddle with others business, nor hardly ask a question ; talk not slightly of religion. If you speake any thing they like, say 'tis borrowed, and be humble when commended. Before I speake, Lord, assist me ; when I pray, Lord, heare me ; when I am praised, God, humble me ; may the clock, the candle, every thing I see, instruct me ; Lord cleanse my hands, lett my feete

tread thy pathes. Is any body laughed att, say it may be my case ; is any in trouble, say, ‘ Lord, in justice I deserve it ; butt thou art all mercy ; make me thankfull.’ On Festivall evens I resolve to dyne att home, and to repeat all the psalmes I know by heart,” (of which she had almost the whole psalter,) “ reserveing my reading or part of my prayers till night ; and supp with bread and beere only.

“ On Frydayes and Wednesdaies I’le eat nothing till after evening prayer ; and soe come downe as soon as ever the Queene has dyned, without goeing to visitt, till my owne prayers are finished.

“ The same will I observe the day before I receive ; use to pray on those dayes by daylight ; and early on Sundayes, and think of no diversion till after evening prayer ; to dyne abroad as little as possible, but performe my constant duty to God and the Queene. Assist me, O Lord ; Amen.

“ Sing Psalmes now and then out of Sundayes. Endeavour to begg with teares what you aske, and O lett them be, O Lord, my onely pleasure. There are 3 Sundayes to come from this Saturday night ; pray one day earnestly to God for love, and against takeing his name in vaine, pray against intemperance and sensuality ; and the other day for meekeness, and against envy ; another for fear and alliance, and against de-traction.

“ I have vowed, if it be possible, not to sett upp past ten o’clock ; therefore, before you engage in com-

pany, goe downe and read this, and be as much alone as you can ; and when you are abroad talke to men as little as may be : carry your prayer booke in your pockett, or any thing that may decently keepe you from converseing with men."

Behold what this blessed saint had promiscuously sett downe in her diary att severall tymes, as resolutions made upon severall occasions, all of them tending to the institution of her life in a course of exterordinary and early piety, for she was now very young, and I, therefore, give them your Ladyshipp in her owne method, without method or studied connexion : nor are these the first I have seene of hers in this nature. She did upon several occurrences record her purposes, and what she soe resolved she punctually perform'd. Butt with what exterordinary caution she govern'd herself att Court ; how holy, innocent, instructive, and useful, her intire conversation was ; how much she improved in virtue, and made devotion the pleasure as well as imployment of her tyme, I need not tell your Ladyshipp : nor used she to trick and dress herselfe upp, tho' in soe splendid and vaine a theater, to the purposes of vanity, or to be fine and ador'd : she was extreemly shy of talking among the gallants and young men, to pass away the tediousness of attendance ; nor made she impertinent visitts ; for she had fill'd vp the whole day, and destin'd almost every minute of it to exercise. When, therefore, I have sum'd vp all, and consider'd well how much of it all I have seene, and how with it all she preserved the lively and elegant conversation which rendered her soe infinitely

agreeable to all that knew her, I cannot butt redouble my admiration and especially how often and sensible she has discoursed with me concerning the wonderful satisfaction she took in the duties of Religion.

Butt here, before I proceed any further, the method of tyme, and other circumstances require me to say something how I came to be first acquainted with this excellent creature, and by what tyes of sacred friendship I find my selfe soe highly obliged to celebrate her memory; and this I shall doe the rather because the Lord has soe great a part in itt, that without ingratitude, I may not pass it over; nor is it without fresh delight that I still call to mind those innocent dayes, and the sweet conversation which fifteene yeares since wee enjoyed, that our families being neare to one another, gave us the happyness to be knowne to the most obligeing neighbour in the world; from soe long a date it is that my wife computes her first haveing had the blessing of beginning an acquaintance with Mrs. Blagge, whome your mother and sister sometimes kindly brought with them to our poore villa: butt few of those civilityes of casuall or respectfull visitts had passed, before my wife had discovered such extraordinary charmes, markes of virtue and discretion in her conversation, that she would often reprove the diffidence I was wont to express, when they would sometymes discourse of Piety and Religion, eminent among the Court Ladyes; and upon which subject your Ladyshipp would frequently joine with my wife in conflict against me, to the reproach of my Moroseness, and Infidelity, especially of a thing soe airy and soe gay as

some represented this miracle to me. And in this Error I had certainly persisted, notwithstanding I had sometimes taken notice of her, both att my house and att Church, to be a very agreeable Lady; but that she or any body else in her Court circumstances, was principl'd with such a solid Virtue, and did cultivate it to that degree, I was brought to believe with soe much difficulty, that it was almost Seaven yeares before your Ladyshipp could convince me. You had, indeed, a Sister there, whose perfections would no longer suffer me to continue alltogether in this false perswasion; butt to believe there were many Saints in that Country I was not much inclined; nor likely had chang'd that opinion, if an Employment had not of necessity sometimes obliged me to come from my Recess, when I as little affected to be knowne and to multiply acquaintance of that sex as another man. I minded my Bookes and my Garden, and the Circle was bigg enough for me. I aspi'd to no offices, noe titles, noe favours att Court, and really was hardly knowne to those next neighbours of mine, whome I had lived almost twenty years by: butt the Country where this Lady lived I had much more aversion to, for the reasons you may guess, and which made her quitt it as soone as she could. 'Twas, I say, about a year that she had sometymes beene att my house, when your Ladyshipp came to hector me out of my contracted humour, but I continually return'd to it; and when, by Chance, you att any tyme nam'd her, I fancied her some airy thing, that had more Witt than Discretion; till upon your Ladyshipp and my Wifes more severely reproaching me for being scarcely civill to a Companion

of your excellent Sisters, for whome I had much esteeme, (though but little acquainted,) I found my selfe oblig'd, in good manners, to waite upon her when I came to Whitehall. I speake of the Lady, your Sister, then Maid of Honour; for I would object, that there was a Witt with her whome I feared, and that I was the most unfitt person in the world for the entertainments of the Anti Chamber, and the little Spiritts that dwell in Fairy Land. You assured me she was humble and Religious, and extreamey serious, and that [if] I would believe you, I should not be displeased with the adventure; for tho' she had abundance of Witt, and rallied shrewdly, yett she was civil and discreete, and exterordinary obligeing. Vpon this, I made your Sister a visitt, and surprized Mrs. Blagge, who it seems that day was dressed for Audience and Ceremony, vpon which I would have withdrawne, butt her Chamber fellow staid me, and I was not vnwilling to hear her talke; but I since came to understand, it was a day of solemn devotion with her, and she excused her selfe, said little, and look'd very humble, which I liked, and soe for this tyme, tooke my leave.

I concluded by this she might not be that pert Lady I had fancied; and she afterwards spake curteously to me, casually meeting her in the house, and that she hoped she had not frighted me from her apartment. I came once or twice after this with my wife to visitt your Sister; when this Lady keepeing her Chamber caused me one day to dyne with her, which I tooke kindly, because 'twas without affectation and with no danger of surfeiting. Butt her conversation was a treat,

and I began to admire her temperance, and tooke especiall notice, that however wide or indifferent the subject of our discourse was amongst the rest, she would allwayes divert it to some Religious conclusion; and soe temper and season her Replies, as shew'd a gracious heart, and that she had a mind wholly taken vp with heavenly thoughts.

After this introduction she conjur'd me not to baulk her holy Cell, and I was not a little pleased to be soe solemnly diverted and find my selfe mistaken, that soe young, soe elegant, soe charming a Witt and Beauty should preserve soe much Virtue in a place where it neither naturally grew nor much was cultivated; for with all these perfections, Vivacitye and Apprehention beyond what I could expect, she seemed vnconcerned and steady, could endure to be serious, and gently reprove my Morosness, and was greatly devout, which putt me out of all feare of her Railry, and made me vpon her with exterordinary respect. Thus every visit abated of my prejudice: her discourses were not trifling and effeminate, butt full of Virtue and materiall, and of a most tender regard to Religion. Butt itt was after your Ladyshipps Mother was gone into Lincolnshair, and had carryed away her companion, that she told me, "now Mrs. Howard is gone, she beleived she should have little of my Company; butt if I were not weary of her, and would be soe charitable, she should take it kindly that I came often to her." This was a Compliment you know I needed not, for by this tyme I was so well assured of her Inclination to Goodness, that she could not imagine me capable of neglecting a per-

son from whose conversation I never return'd butt with advantage. I soone perceived what touched me to the heart, and that was her soule ; and how her Inclinations pointed to God ; that her discourses, designes, and actions tended allwayes thither : and other observations which I made to my exterordinary wonder and admiracion. This Creature (would I say to my selfe) loves God ; 'tis a thousand pittyes butt she should persist ; what a new thing is this, I think Paulina and Eustochius are come from Bethlehem to Whitehall ; and from this moment I began to looke vpon her as sacred, and to bless God for the graces which shoone in her. I dayly prayed for her as she had enjoined me, and she began to open some of her holy thoughts to me ; and I saw a flagrant devotion, and that she had totally resigned herselfe to God ; and with these Incen-tives, who, that had any sence of Religion, could forbear to vallue her exceedingly ?

Itt was not long after this, that being one day to visitt her, she seem'd to me more thoughtfull than ordinary. I asked her, what made her looke soe solemnly. She told me, she had never a freind in the world. Noe, said I, that's impossible ; I beleive no body has more ; for all that know you must love you, and those that love you are continually your freinds. Butt I, who well knew where her heart att that tyme was, asked her what she esteemed a certaine Gentleman beyond the Seas. Alas, says she, he is very ill, and that makes me very much concerned ; butt I doe not speake to you of him, whome God will I hope be gracious to, but I would have a FREIND. In that name is a great deale

more then I can express, a faithfull freind, whome I might trust with all that I have, and God knows, that is butt little ; for him whome you meane does not care to meddle with my concerns, nor would I give him the trouble. This, to my remembrance, were her very expressions to me. Madam, said I, doe you speake this to me, as if I were capable of serving you in any thing considerable ? I beleive you the person in the world (replyed she) who would make such a freind as I wish for, if I hadd meritt enough to deserve it. Madam, said I, consider well what you say, and what you doe, for it is such a trust, and soe great an obligation that you lay upon me, as I ought to embrace with all imaginable respect, and acknowledgmet for the greatest honour you could doe me ; Madam, to be called your freind were the most desirable in the word, and I am sure I should endeavour to acquitt me of the duty with great chearfullness and fidelity. Pray leave your complimenting, (said she smiling) and be my freind then, and looke upon me henceforth as your Child. To this purpose was her obligeing reply ; and there standing pen and ink vpon the table, in which I had been drawing something upon a paper like an Alter, she writt these words : Be this the Symboall of Inviolable Freindship,—Mary Blagge, 16th October, 1672, and vnderneath, For my brother E — — ; and soe delivered it to me with a smile. Well, said I, Madam, this is an high obligation, and you have allready paid me for the greatest service that I can ever pretend to doe you ; butt yett doe you know what you have done ? Yes, sayes she, very well ; butt pray what doe you meane ? Why, said I, the title that has consecrated this Alter is the

Marriage of Souls, and the Golden thread that ties the hearts of all the world ; I tell you, Madam, Freindshipp is beyond all relations of flesh and blood, because it is less materiall ; there is nature in that of parents and kindred, butt [that of] Freindshipp is of course and without election, for which the Conjugall State it selfe is not alwayes the most happy ; and, therefore, those who have had best experience chuse their freind out of all these circumstances, and have found him more lasting, and more effectuall. By this Symbooll you give me title to all that you can with Honour and Religion part with in this world ; and it is a topic I could adorne with glorious examples of what I speak ; and the noblest things have been said vpon it ; and the Laws and Measures of Freindshipp are the nicest and the most obligeing ;—but you know them all. Well, replied she, smileing, be it soe,—pray what am I to doe ? Nay, said I, I'll tell you first what you are to suffer.

The priviledges I claime (in virtue of that character) are that I may visitt you without being thought importunate ; that I may now and then write to you to cultivate my Stile ; discourse with you to improve my Vnderstanding ; read to you to receive your Reflexions ; and that you freely command me vpon all occasions without any reserve whatsoever : you are to write to me when I am absent ; mention me in all your prayers to God, to admonish me of all my failings, to visitt me in sickness, to take care of me when I am in distress, and never to forsake me, change or lessen your particular esteeme, till I prove vnconstant or perfidious, and no mans freind : in a word, there is in Freindshipp

something of all relations, and something above them all. These, Madam, are the Laws, and they are reciprocalall and eternall, &c.

Thus, for a tyme, 'twixt jest and earnest, the conversation putt her into the most agreeable humor in the world. Well, said she, I will consider of what you say ; butt pray remember you be my freind, and when next you come, I will tell you what I have for you to doe in good earnest ; and a little after writt me this Letter.

“ *My Freind,*

“I have considered and minded well what was said, and what I writt, and will not recall it. I vnderstood something of the office of freindshipp before I knew you, butt after what you have said and offered, I beleive I shall need little Instruction. Gratitude, join'd with the greatest esteeme I had before of you, will require all that you mention on my part : you are then, my first freind, the first that ever I had, and ever shall you be soe. This is trueth vpon the word of a Christian ; and I beleive I shall not lay downe my resolution of continueing yours butt with my life. I thankfully accept all your Councell, and will endeavour to follow it ; butt birds themselves have allwayes the good nature to teach their young ones, and soe must you ; looke vpon me then as your child as well as freind, and love me as your child, and, if you will, call me soe. What Measures you are to observe I meddle not with ; for a freind may doe what he pleases ; they who give monny, give all ; 'tis a saying of your owne as to Charity,

they that are freinds are all things,—lett that be myne. Butt as for the returnes for the good offices I receive, I beleive my advice can be of little vse to you, vnless to serve you as an Act of humility, which must be all the reason you will ever have to require it ; what shall I say then more ? till death reckon me your freind ; you see how I think I am with you ; and now, after all this, I may grow old or forgettfull, and Melancholy or Stupid, and in that Case, will no more answer for my selfe then for a Stranger ; butt, whilst I am my selfe and a Christian, I will be yours.”

Itt would be an vnpardonable ostentation in me, and a great temptation to over vallue my selfe, and the poore services she was pleased to accept of, should I here repeate what she has left me vnder her own hand vpon this subject, in the most pious and endearing expressions that could possibly fall from the most sincere and obligeing Creature in the world : butt to lett them pass,—’tis certaine, that from this moment, I no more look’d vpon her as Mrs. Blagge, butt as my child indeed, and did, to the vttmost of my poore abilitye, advice and serve her in all her secular and no few spirituall affaires and concerns, with a diligence and fidelity becomeing the trust and confidence she reposed in me, as an honour to be envyed by the best of men : her friendshipp after this was soe transcendently sincere, noble, and Religious, as taught me all its demeanions, beyond any thing I ever read of its highest Ideas ; and she herselfe was heard to say, what she once thought to be a name onely and nothing else, she found a reall existance ; and that freindshipp was for mutuall

Improvement, and to fortify every virtue ; and, indeed, she was able to direct, and Councell, and encourage, and Comfort. Nay, and has often told me with becoming passion, That she with Joy could dye for a friend ; vrging that sentence of St. Pauls, nor are the measures hard ; I am sure willingly would I have done it for her : O sweete, O how desireable ! And, indeed, these holy transports made the Christians communicate all they had ; the apostles speake of some who would have pluck'd out their very eyes and laid downe their necks for him, and called nothing their owne which others wanted. 'Tis this which made those saints of one mind and of one heart ; 'tis this has Crown'd a hundred thousand martyrs, and shewed vs that the most consummate friendshipps are the products of Religion and the love of God. There are Innumerable expressions of this nature to be found in her letters to me, which are Charming, and indeed, soe tender and personall, that, tho' one (who) knew my demeritts as well as I my selfe doe, would suspect their sincerity ; yett I knew to be from her heart, which was full of most generous resentments. In a word, I may say, as David did of Jonathan, her friendship to me was passing the love of women ; nor verily, was it without an intire sympathye on my part ; and there was providence in itt, as well as inclination for the exceeding and most eminent piety and goodness that ever consecrated a worthy friendship, shone soe bright in this blessed saint, as intitled her to all the services, respect, and veneration I was capable of giving her.

Never am I to forgett this Golden expression of hers

to me. I would have (sayes she) nothing that passes betweene vs have any Resemblance of friendship that doe not last. Butt, Madam, whither has this Indearing topic transported me.

After this solemn engagement then, she soone acquainted me with many of her concerns; made me the depositarie of her pious thoughts and resolutions, and putt her whole fortune intirely into my hands; which, indeed, lay in some danger for want of that assistance, which she might have had from an able person, tho' from none more faithfull and more Industrious to Improve it to the best of my capacity; I was only griev'd, when att any tyme she thought it a trouble to me; butt she would say: I am your Child, and whither should I goe butt to you; never will I doe any thing without you whilst I live: more difference and humility could she not have paid to a father; more confidence in a friend; and this temper'd with that sweetness and exterordinary piety, that I am not able to support the consideration of the loss of such a friendship without vnspeakable grieve.

Seldome or rarely came I to waite on her, (if she were not in company) but I found her in her little oratorie, and some tymes all in feares, for never was Creature more devout and tender; and a thousand Cases and questions would she propound to me, for which I would still referr her to that Reverend and learn'd divine, with whome she did constantly correspond vpon all occasions of spirituall advice; soe carefull and curious was this saint in the concernments of

her soule ; butt she would often tell me, he was too gentle, and, therefore, required of me to deale Impartially ; [that] I was her friend, and that a friend was Ghostly father, and every thing to her ; indeed I would often reprove her tiresome methods and thought to plant the consideracion of the memory and love of God in her thoughts ; and to cure her of the sad and frieghtfull apprehensions she sometymes seemed to have, that God was a severe exacter ; that she had never done enough, and served an austere Master, not to be pleased without abundance of labour and formes without end ; and for this she would frequently give me thanks, that I had lett her see and tast more of the love of God and delices of Religion, than ever she had before. And verily this holy and Religious temper of hers, was enough to winn the esteeme of all that had any sence of goodness. Nor was her tyme wholly spent in the contemplative part of piety ; she was always doeing some good offices for one or other, gave frequent and considerable reliefe to poore and indigent people, and not seldome made me her almoner, and the hand to convey it where she could not well her selfe ; but of this and the many visitts she in her owne person made (delicate as she was) to refresh and comfort the sick and miserable, even amongst the most wretchedly poore, nott without great inconveniency to her health, I shall give account hereafter : butt hitherto was she advanc'd, being yett hardly enter'd her Nineteenth yeare, an age that few in her circumstances soe soone sett out att, and [would] that I begun as early and as early finish'd.

Wee will now then looke vpon her as att Whitehall, whither she came from St. James to waite vpon her Majestye, after the death of the Dutchess, when she was not above sixteene. I had not then indeed the honour to know her; butt I have heard from others, that her beauty and her witt was so exterordinary improved, as there had nothing been seene more surprizing, and full of charmes; every body was in love with, and some allmost dyeing for her, whilst with all the Modesty and Circumspection imaginable, she strove to Eclipse the luster which she gave; and would often check the vivacity which was naturall, and perfectly became her, for feare of giving occasion to those who lay in waite to deceive. Butt it was not possible here to make the least approach, butt such as was full of Honour; and the distance she observ'd, and Caution and Judgment she was mistress of, protected her from all impertinent addresses, till she had made a Choice, without Reproach, and worthy her Esteeme, namely, of that excellent Person, who was afterwards her Husband, after a passion of no less than Nine long yeares, that they both had been the most intire and faithfull lovers in the world. 'This was a space indeed of sufficient probation, nor will I presume to dive into the circumstances which made them be soe long resolveing, she being then it seems butt very young, and both of a temper soe extreamly discrete. Butt as to the first Impressions, I will relate to your Ladyshipp what I have learn'd from her selfe, when sometymes she was pleased to trust me with diverse passages of her Life. For it was not possible I could hear of soe long an Amour, soe honorable a love and constant passion, and

which I easily perceived concerned her, as lookeing vpon herselfe vnsettled, and one who had long since resolved nott to make the Court her rest, butt I must be touched with some Care for her. I would now and then kindly chide her, why she suffer'd those languishments, when I knew not on whome to lay the blame. For tho' she would industriously conceale her disquiett, and divert it vnder the notion of the Spleene, she could not but acknowledge to me where the dart was fix'd; nor was any thing more ingenious then what she now writt me vpon this Subject, by which your Ladyshipp will perceive, as with what peculiar confidence she was pleased to honour me, soe, with what early prudence and great pietye she manag'd the passion, which, of all other, young people are comonly the most precipitate in and unadvis'd.

“I came,” sayes she, “soe young, as I tell you, into the world (that is, about 14 yeares of Age,) where no sooner was I entred, butt various opinions were delivered of me and the person whome (you know,) was more favourable then the rest were to me, and did, after some tyme, declare it to me. The first thing which tempts young weomen is vanity, and I made that my great designe. Butt Love soone taught me another Lesson, and I found the trouble of being tyed to the hearing of any save him; which made me resolve that either he or none should have the possession of your Friend. Being thus soone sencible of Love my selfe, I was easily perswaded to keepe my selfe from giving him any cause of Jealousye, and in soe long a tyme never has there been the least.

“This, vnder God’s providence, has been the means of preserveing me from many of those misfortunes young Creatures meet with in the world, and in a Court espetially. Att first wee thought of nothing but liveing alwayes togeather, and that wee should be happy. Butt att last he was sent abroad by his Majestye, and fell sick, which gave me great trouble; and I allow’d more tyme for Prayer and the performance of holy dutyes than before I had ever done, and I thank God, found infinite pleasure in it, farr beyond any other, and I thought less of foolish things that vsed to take vp my tyme. Being thus changed my selfe, and likeing it soe well, I earnestly begg’d of God that he would impart the same satisfaction to him I loved; ’tis done, (my friend) ’tis done, and from my soule I am thankfull; and tho’ I beleive he loves me passionately, yett I am not where I was: my place is fill’d vpp with HIM who is all in all. I find in him none of that tormenting passion to which I need sacrefice my selfe; butt still were wee dissengag’d from the world, wee should marry vnder such restraints as were fitt, and by the agreeableness of our humour, make each other happy. Butt att present there are obstructions: he must be perpetually engaged in buissness, and follow the Court, and live allwayes in the world, and soe have less tyme for the service of God, which is a sensible affliction to him; wherefore, wee are not determined to precipitate that matter, butt to expect a while, and see how things will goe; haveing a great mind to be togeather, which cannot with decency be done without marrying, nor, to either of our satisfactions, without being free from the world. In short, serving of God is

our end, and if wee cannott do that quietly together wee will asunder. You know our Saviour sayes, that all could not receive that doctrine, but to those who could, he gave noe contradiction ; and if wee can butt pass our younger yeares, 'tis not likely wee should be concern'd for marrying when old. If wee could marry now, I don't see butt those inconveniencys may happen by sickness, or absence, or death. In a word, if we marry, it will be to serve God and to encourage one another dayly ; if wee doe not, 'tis for that end too ; and wee know God will direct those who sincerely desire his love above all other Considerations ; now should wee both resolve to continue as we are, be assur'd, I should be as little Idle as if I were a wife. I should attend to prayer and all other Christian duties, and make these my pleasures, seeing I chuse not the condition out of restraint and singularity, but to serve God the better."

This being in answer to something I had written to her vpon a serious debate, in which I had opposed a melancholy Resolution, she would now and then entertaine me with, of absolutely renouncing the thoughts of Marriage and wholly retireing in the world, I give you [it] in her owne Style and holy thoughts, as an Instance of that early piety and prudentiall weighing of things and circumstances, which accompanied all her actions ; nor could I have presented your Ladyshipp with a more Illustrious part of her history nor more instructive.

In good earnest, this purpose of wholly vacateing to

Religion, was att this tyme soe imprinted in her, that whether she marryed or remain'd single, resolv'd she was to depart the Court. She had frequently told me, that Seaven yeares was enough and too much, to trifle any longer there: and, accordingly, one day that I least dream't of it, she came expressly to my lodgeing and acquainted me with her Intention to goe [and] live att Berkley House, and that if she did alter her condition by Marriage, it should be when she was perfectly free, and had essayed how her detachment from Royall servitude would comport with her before she determin'd concerning another change. I happen'd to be with her in the Queens withdrawing roome, when a day or two after, finding her oppertunity, and that there was less company, she begg'd leave of their Majestyes to retire; never shall I forgett the humble and becomeing address she made, nor the Joy that discover'd its selfe in this Angells countenance, above any thing I had ever observed of transport in her, when she had obtained her suite; for, I must tell you, Madam, she had made some attempts before without success, which gave her much anxietie. Their Majestyes were both vnwilling to part with such a Jewell; and I confess, from that tyme, I look'd vpon White Hall with pitty, not to say Contempt. What will become said I, of Corinthus, the Citty of Luxury, when the graces have abandon'd it, whose piety and example is soe highly necessary? Astræa soe left the Lower world. And for my part, I never sett my foote in it afterwards, butt as ent'ring into a solitude, and was ready to cry out with the wife of Phineas, that its glory was departed. She tooke, I assure you, her

leave of their Majestyes with soe much modesty and good a Grace, that tho' they look't as if they would have a little reproach't her for makeing so much hast, they could not find in their hearts to say an vnkind word to her ; butt there was for all that I am certaine something att the heart like grieve ; and I leave you, Madam, to imagine how the rest of the Court mourn'd this Recess, and how dim the tapers burnt as she pass'd the anti-chamber. 'Is Mrs. Blagge goeing,' says a faire creature ; 'why stay I here any longer ?' others, 'that the Court had never such a Starr in all its hemisphere ; and verily, I had not observed soe vniversall a damp vpon the spiritts of every one that knew her. Itt was, I remember, on a Sunday night, after most of the company were departed, that I waited on her downe to her Chamber, where she was noe sooner enter'd, butt falling on her knees, she blessed God as for a Signall deliverance ; she was come out of Egypt, and now in the way to the Land of Promise. You will easily figure to your selfe how buissy the young Saint was the next morning in makeing vpp her little carriage to quitt her prison : and when you have fancied the Conflagration of a certaine Citty the Scripture speaks of, imagine this Lady trussing vpp her little fardle, like the two daughters whom the angell hastned and conducted ; but the similitude goes no further, for this holy Virgin went to Zoar, they to the cave of Folly and Intemperance ; there was no danger of her looking back and becomeing a Statue for sorrow of what she left behind. All her household stuffe besides a Bible and a bundle of Prayer bookes, was packed vpp in a very little Compass, for she lived soe farr from su-

perfluitye, that she carryed all that was vallueable in her person ; and tho' she had a Courtly wardrobe, she affected it not, because every thing became her that she putt on, and she became every thing was putt vpon her.

She tooke her leave of the mother of the Maids as became her ; butt she could not weepe till your Ladyshipps sister, whome she was still to leave in Captivitye fell on her neck, and then there fell mutuall tears, that trickled down her Cheeks like the dew of Flowers, and made a lovely griefe ; to her and to your Ladyshipp she left her pretty Oratorye, soe often consecrated with her prayers and devotions, as to the only successors of her Virtues and Piety ; and as I am perswaded that the Court was every day less sensible of its losse whilst you both continued in it, because you trode in this Religious Ladys Stepps, soe the piety it any where still retaines is accountable to your rare examples ; of such Importance is one Religious Person to a whole Society, and sometymes to a Nation.

Butt to returne to her remove from Court. I am the more particular as haveing had the honour to waite on her to Berkley House ; I tell your Ladyshipp, I never beheld her more orient than she appeared att this tyme, and the moment she sett foote in the Coach her eyes sparkled with Joy, and a marvelous lustre ; the Roses of her Cheeks were soe fresh, and her countenance soe gay, as if with the rest of her perfections (had she not left your two Sisters there) she had carryed all the Beautyes as well as all the Virtue of the Court away with her too. Butt ah, had you seen with what effu-

sion and open armes she entred Berkley House, and sprung into the Caresses of my Lady, in what a trice after she was ledd vp into her apartmentt she had putt all her Equipage in order, rang'd her Library, and disposed of her Compendious Inventory, you would have said there was nothing prettyer then that buissy moment. And now when she had consecrated her new Oratorye with a devout Aspiration and the Incense of an humble Soule, for the blessings of this sweete Retirement, she satt down and admired her sweete felicitye. For, as I told your Ladyshipp, 'twas not altogeather that she might be disengaged from Court that she designed to quitt itt ; butt that she might vacate more to stricter duty. She believed that att Berkley House she should be more att her owne disposall ; that she should have noe body to observe butt God ; be mistress of her houres, and governe her affaires suitable to her devout Inclinations : and when she seriously requir'd my opinion of it, I could not disapprove it. Itt brought to mind how in the declension of the Empire, and when the sinns and vices of a licentious and abandon'd age had allarm'd the Roman world with a barbarous and vniversall warr, like what was now vpon the scene of Europe, that Paula and her daughter Eustochium, (two rich and beautifull Ladys) quitted the splendor of a pompous Court for the Recesses of Bethlehem and the Solitudes of Judea, and to prostrate themselves att the manger of a divine babe, and then att the foote of Calvarye, where this holy Mother and beautious Daughter spent the rest of their days in the recollection of their lives and the service of Jesus : me-thought nothing more ever resembled this Act of those Devotas than the

heroick resolution of our Saint ; in this yett superior to theirs, as hers was spontaneous, theirs by the importunities of St. Hierome ; abandoning the Royall Circle, where she made vp the constellacions, for a Circle of reall Starrs, and to stand before the throne of the Lamb ; she deserts the glittering Balls, and goes no more to the Theater, that she may sing in the quire of Seraphins, and contemplate the celestiall vision ; she cares not for the Sumptuous Entertainments, the Musick, Masking, and perfumes, to mortify her sences, and enjoy intellectual pleasures ; she neglects the gay and studious Dress, the Raillery and reputation of a Witt, which made her the life of Conversation and the pretty miracle of Court, that she may adorne her bright Soule, and converse with Angells ; she chuses rather to suffer diminution, and the censure of men as precise and singular ; to be a reall Maid of Honour, then to have the name, and live in the scene of Temptation and the pleasures of Sinn for a season : in a word, I fancied her call'd, as was Abraham out of Vr of the Chaldees and from the Idolls of Haran.

Butt as nothing on this side heaven is permanent long, she had not been in this Imaginarye and indeed sweete retirement, and where tho' one of the most magnificent pallaces of the Towne, she had her apartment remote from the buissy part of the house, and was rarely fitted for her purposes of devotion ; I say, it was not long, when partly from the necessity of Compliance with the Lady of the family, the continuall and importune visitts of the great persons which vs'd to frequent that place, obligeing her to tedious Cerimony and con-

versation that often interrupted her Course, and partly (from) other circumstances, which for the present seemed less favourable to their Intentions of marriage soe soone, and the disquiett it putt her to, she not only deliberated in good earnest, butt resum'd her former Inclination with more resolution than ever, of removeing farther from these Impediments and all togeather abandoning the world. I have really been touch'd in the deepest sence to see the Conflicts this devout Creature vnderwent, betweene her love and her devotion; or shall I call them both her love; for soe they were: a thousand times has she told me she would abide as she was, and then her pittie for him who could not live in her absence, divided her afresh, and peirc'd her to the soule; and when she was in the deepest of this Concerne for him, nothing I have ever read in the Epistles of Seneca, had that excellent Stoick been indeed a Christian, appear'd more divinely philosophicall than the Topics she would vse to divert his passion, and reason him into an indifference for her, when (of all things in the world,) it was not indifferent to her that he should have lov'd her less. Butt she had really that absolute Empire over her owne affections, and such potent Inclinations to make God and Religion the buisness of her life, that as I said, she was many times vpon the Brink of Resolveing to abandon all the world: she believed that I who knew love to be stronger than death, would never approve of this resolution; and, therefore, she pretended att first, only to make a visitt to her sister the Lady Yarbrough, in Yorksheir, for a month or two dureing the summer; butt after that she could not conceale from me a further designe of goeing from thence

to Hereford, to live by herself vnder the direction of the Reverend Deane of that Cathedrall, who had long been her spirituall father. This was the Zoare she often languished after, vseing that of Righteous Lott, "Is it not a little one, and my soule shall live." "Yes, my friend," says she, "in perfect liberty without formes; frugally, without Contempt; conveniently, without pomp; att distance from the Bustle of the world, where I shall forgett and be forgotten, be arbitress of my tyme, and serve God regularly; chuse my Conversation, and when I alter my Condition, doe it with your advice; which I am sure will never be to alter a purpose soe reasonable, and soe fit for one in my Circumstances." Thus would this blessed Creature discourse it with me, whilst in the meane tyme she was ballanceing in herselfe when it came to a Resolution. "The Lord help me, dear freind," sayes she to me, in another Letter, "I know not what to determine; sometymes I think one thing, sometymes another; one day I fancy noe life soe pure as the vnmarried, another day I think it less exemplarye, and that the married life has more opportunity of exercising Charity; and then againe, that 'tis full of solicitude and worldyness, soe as what I shall doe, I know not. He can live without a wife willingly, but without me he is vnwilling to live, soe as if I doe not marry he is not in danger of sinn; but if I or he or both should repent, O Lord and Governor of my life, leave me not to my selfe, to the Counsell of my whole heart, butt send me wisdome from thy throne to direct, assist, and tead me soberly in my doeings. . Thou hast imparted to us reason for our guide; butt O rule thou that reason, for without thou Conduct it I shall be

in perpetuall hazard. Lord, I renounce all Judgment, all knowledge, and discretion of my owne; I desire not to be a Child of this world, wise in their Generation, butt to be a Foole that I may indeed be wise. I am in a straight and know not what to chuse, determine thou for me, O blessed Lord. Remember that for near these one and twenty yeares I have been thy care, and I bless the for it. Thou hast frequently and wonderfully preserv'd me, both in spirituall and temporall dangers, and over and above has done Innumerable good things for me; O leave me not now in this difficulty, butt once more be thou my Councillor, and whilst I live will I be thy faithfull, thankfull, servant. Say, Amen with me, dear freind."

Behold Madam, the Letter, or rather the ejaculation which an heart intirely possess'd with Religious Sentiments, made her dictate on this occasion; nor should I have produc'd these particulars (con-credited to me in spetiall Confidence) butt to lett you see, with how holy a designe and consideracion she proceeded; and how Infinitely different from the method of makeing love and receiveing addresses now a dayes. Veryly, when I reflect vpon her youth, beauty, witt, the temptations and conflicts she sustain'd, to comply with the affection she had for her two Rivall loves (for soe I againe call them) I am halfe astonish'd, butt you shall hear how passionately she describes it, and thus goes on.

"Much afflicted and in great agony was your poor friend this day, to think of the love of the holy Jesus, and yett be soe little able to make him any returne. For with what favour have I protested against all af-

fection to the things of this world ; resign'd them all without exception ; when the first moment I am tryed, I shrink away, and am passionately fond of the Creature, and forgetfull of the Creator. This, when I consider'd, I fell on my knees, and with many teares, begg'd of God to assist me with his Grace, and banish from me all Concerne butt that of heavenly things, and wholly to possess my heart himselfe ; and either releive me in this Conflict, now soe long sustain'd, or continue to me Strength to resist it, still fearing if the combate cease not in tyme, I should repine for being putt vpon soe hard a dutye. Butt then againe, when I call to mind the Grace of Selfe denyall, the honour of suffering for my Saviour, the Reward propos'd for those that conquer, the delight I shall conceive in seeing and enjoying him ; the happyness of the life above ; I that am thus feeble, thus fearfull, call, (out of exercise of his Grace,) yea, for tribulation, for persecution, for contradictions to my own desires, and for every thing agreeable to the Spiritt and displeasing to the flesh. Thus, with St. Paul, when I am weake then am I strong ; when I am in sorrow then am I rejoycing ; one whome I love is here, butt I am gott to other Company, and well have I been regal'd, for God has been very gracious to me ; most bitterly have I wept to think how much of my heart he has, how little my blessed Saviour, who has loved and suffered for me soe much more ; happy, ah happy, are you my friend, that are past that mighty love to the Creature. Butt I make this my humble confession to God and you, bewayleing my loveing any thing butt himself ; imploreing him to translate my affections, and place them on him alone. Thus to you

doe I display my griefe, I can leave him whome here I love, to goe to my Jesus for ever ; butt I Confess 'tis hard for me to leave him now soe often as I doe, and this breaks my heart, that after soe many solemn professions to God, what I would doe for him, I should with such reluctancy part from this person, to pray, and to read, and to goe to holy duties.

“Now, dear friend, should I marry, and refuse to goe to my Lord, part vnwillingly, or refuse him, what would become of me ? No, No, I will remaine my Saviours ; he shall be my love, my husband, my all ; I will keepe my Virgin, present it vnto Christ, and not putt myselfe into the temptation of loveing any thing in Competition with my God.”

Thus farr this devout and tender Creature : nor this the last wherein she has conjur'd me to advise what she should resolve on, when often her heart as I said, has been divided betweene her lovers, as was St. Pauls in another case, even wishing to be dissolved, that she might be with Christ, and freed from all this solicitude, as she has frequently express'd it to me. And now what was I to returne ? truly I was myselfe also sometyes divided in my thoughts. She had perpetuall Inclinations to retire from all the world, espetially apprehending that by any secular circumstances, she might possibly remaine in a doubtful condition, and the resolution was once soe strongly fix'd, that with noe small difficulty I opposed it. Being soe fully perswaded as I was, that they would be exceeding blessings to one another, rare examples of the conjugall state, and that nothing could hinder the pursuite of an holy

life and the love of God, soe much as this pendulous and vncertaine condition, whilst marriage she would find compose her devout spiritt, and improve it, I told her, she was not free, as I conceiv'd, to resolve soe peremptorylye ; that it was to doe violence to one whome she acknowledg'd could not live without her ; nay, that if to comply with her, he putt constraint vpon himselfe, she should not doe well, since his Action in this Case ought to be as free as her owne ; and that she should doe a much nobler and [more] self denying thing, to preferr the satisfaction of soe worthy a Creature before her owne. I consented to all her Elogies of the Virgin State, butt that there were no less due to the Conjugall ; and that if there were some temptations in it, her meritts would be the greater, and the exercise of her virtue ; Circled indeed it was with some tollerable thorns, butt rewarded with illustrious Coronetts for the good it produc'd ; that as to the oppertunityes of serveing God, an active life was preferable to the Contemplative ; and that I should not doubt to see as many Crown'd in heaven who had been marryed, as of Virgins : since from Marriage all the Virgins in the world had their orriginall, and all the Saints that ever were or ever shall be ; that it was the Seminary of the Church and care of Angells ; and that [though] our beloved [Lord] were borne of a Virgin, she was yett vail'd vnder the Cover of Marriage ; and soe when St. Paul exalted the Celibate above it, for the advantages he enumerates, itt was nott to derogate from Marriage, butt because of the present distress and the Impediments of a family to an Itinerant and Persecuted Apostle, and those who in that Coniuncture had noe certaine aboade.

That as to the perfection and puritie of the State, 'twas one thing to be marryed to a Man, and another to a Husband ; to the first indeed, most of the world were joined, to the second, none butt the Religious. That as 'twas Instituted in Paradise, and dignified by our blessed Saviours presence ; compared to the most intimate Indearments of Christ to his Church, 'twas often blessed with exterordinary prosperity even in this world. That the fidelity, society, mutuall affection, and instance of religious Marriages, the regularity of their Charitye, and hospitality of their familyes, was Emulous of the highest pretences of the Virgin and more solitary Condition. Doe you (would I say) esteeme it noe honour to have given Saints to the Church, and usefull members to the State in which you live ; and that you can be hospitable to strangers, institute your Children, give instruction to your servants, example to the neighbours, and be the parent of a thousand other blessings. I remembered her of what sometymes she would say, that if she marryed and had noe Children, she should be displeased ; and if she had, she might have either too many, or too wicked and vntoward ; this, I told her, was to distrust Gods providence. and she did not well to make those reflections ; when in all events there was exercise of faith, and patience, Industry, and other graces ; and that she would not be happy vnless shee was alone, not considering that the few may be as well fooles, as vitious,—which is worse ; and that one of the many may recompence all her care for the rest ; that if she who bare her had been of that mind, there would have been one less Saint to Glorifye God ; that I should have wanted an excellent friend,

and soe would many others, who now bless'd God for the Charityes she did them. Vpon all these Topycs I challeng'd her humility, her faith, and her love. I laid before her how much more affected, morose, covetous, obnoxious to temptation and reproach an old Maid would be, who was knowne to have engaged her affection already, than one who had never entertain'd an address. Then the trouble and sorrow of bringing forth and expence of a family, would att another tyme affright her; little woemen, I told her, had little paine; and that Queens had endured as much with patience and chearfullness; that as to great fortunes and support, opulent couples were not exempted from Cares, and that tho' I was assured God had great blessings of that kind also in reserve; yett sowre provisions and less Ambition, were as happy in the mutuall affection of each other, where there was a Competency for the present, and soe faire a prospect for the future: in a word, that there was some thing soe patriarchall (not to say despotic) and Royall in a well govern'd family, and worthy marriages, that I could not butt give it preheminance to all she had objected. These were the conflicts wee had on this subject; and the difficultyes she suggested, where, I plainly told her, Itt was by no means agreeable to her piety, nor to the Equitye of the thing, that any less consideration than a fore sight of inevitable ruine, should suspend her resolutions of giving her selfe to a deserving person whose approaches had been soe honourable, and whome she confess'd she lov'd above all the world. There is certainly nothing more calamitous, then where love (as they call it) drives the bargaine, and passion blinds the Man; butt soe the

young things precipitate, and the Giddy are entangled, and when the fancy cooles, repentance succeeds, and it ends in aversion and anxietye. But these Calentures concern'd not this excellent Couple, and such a Conjugation of likely circumstances. I would tell her itt was not enough to be happy alone, when she might make another soe; or ought she to resolve not to alter her Condition till she was out of reach of accidents, that it became a cruell and ill natur'd Laban to exact a double apprentyshipp for a Rachell; that it was Saul that putt David to adventure for a wife; that the Heroick tymes were now antiquated, and people proceeded by gentler and more compendious methods; and the decencies of her sex, and custome of the nation, and the honour of the condition, and the want of Monasteryes and pyous Recesses obliged her to marry. Marry then in Gods name, said I, since my advice you aske: itt is finally what I think you ought to resolve on; tho' if I studded my owne satisfaction, I should rather promote this aversion, and seeke to fortifye your suspicion; for as I profess it the greatest Contentment of my life that you have vowed me your friendship soe solemnly, and that you will be constant, whilst I incite you to marry, I endanger and putt it to the hazard; for perhaps your husband may be jealous, tho' without cause; or he may have particular dislike to me, or may not be noble, free, and ingenious, or may make you vnhappy otherwise, which would be the greatest affliction could happen to me; whereas, continuing as you are, mistress of your selfe and your conversation, your virtue and my yeares, and the conscience of my duty, and both our discretions, will pre-

serve our friendship honorable, pious, and vsefull. In sum, I said nothing vpon Marriage, butt what I could vntravell to the advantage of virginitye,—the ease of a single life, the opportunityes of doeing more good, of serveing God better, of prolonging life—by example and precept from Scripture, from Fathers, from Legends and historyes, and present her such a lovely picture of that state, which approaches next the nature of Angells, (who neither marry nor are given in marriage) as would have brought her to more than a suspence, or requiring farther advice: she would have needed no farther argument to render her more vnkind to Hymen, and to the repose of one who she knew I pittied; and, therefore, I ever perswaded her against the Recess she soe often was threatning, as a thing singular and of little advantage. I applauded her recourse to assiduous and humble prayer; that God would direct her for the best, and that after all I had said and written to her, she would make that her Oracle; being confident that God, who had hitherto taken such signall care of her, would not suffer her to miscarry in this Concerne. For I could not endure to see her allwayes in a doubtfull and vncertaine condition; because it could be profitable for neither, for when she had seriously consulted her friends, she had done all that was required; and since it could not but be their vniversall suffrage, she was to acquiess, I therefore advised her, that in case she still resolv'd to live as she was, it should be butt for a tyme, without Imposeing on her selfe, and soe from tyme to tyme, as Circumstances might be, butt till then mind her health; for she began to looke pale and leane, and had been too negligent of her selfe, which I reprov'd

her for. Butt this did not alltogether the effect,—she rejoines, and writes to me from Twicknam thus:—

“26th July.

“Your advice I like, and all you say on both subjects; yett am still where I was, wishing to live alone, as a thing most suiteable to my humour, and the nearest way to heaven; nor can you blame one soe weake as I am, to chuse that path which will soonest bring me to my Journeys end. However, I shall observe your Rules, and soe farr your counsell, as not to determine any thing rashly, till he give me free leave to doe it. In the meane tyme, if you approve of it, that the world may not think by my growing leane as you say, I leave it with regrett, for the tyme I stay here I intend to take care of my health, and drink the Cows milk in the Morning, and because I am not to sleep imediately vpon it, my Maid shall read to me some divine Subject; then rise and finish my private duties, then pray with my Servants, and be dressed by Eleaven, and soe have tyme before prayers to read a Chapter with other duties; note and collect something out of what I read. Att six in the Evening I will repeate my Course againe, and after that learn such things by heart as I gladly would retaine; after Supper pray with my people and by my selfe, my Maid reading to me whilst I am vndressing, and then lay me downe in peace. This is the method I intend for ordnary dayes, nott Frydayes, when you know I am to fast, and spend it intirely with God; or Sundayes, [when] I will rise early and Imploy it with as much devotion as I can;—this is, I say, the course I purpose here, if you approve of it; for the rest, eat my

meate heartyly, and comply with the conversation of the Family ; tho' I all this tyme wish extreamly that I were settled, where I needed vse none of these Imper-tinencies, the observances and ceremonyes of visitts, formall meals, &c. to the expence of my tyme ; butt wholly attend on God, night and day. Nor should I dare yett to indulge my selfe this liberty, did I att all please my selfe in it as formerly I had done ; or that I intend to continue it above 3 months att furthest, if I change not my Condition, which is to marry (as you would have me) and become worldly. Soe as by the end of Summer, I shall be free, and then none will consider my lookes, nor shall I be concern'd if they doe, att the distance of my retreate. Pray lett me know what you think of all this. I was this day very devout, but nott tender, and I hope it was as well, for I thank God I have made good resolutions."

This being the substance of her letter in reply to one of myne, your Ladyshipp may perceive, as, how devoutly this blessed Virgin, (for soe must I call her,) spent her tyme in that delicious place, and amongst such a Confluence of Visittants, &c, soe how her heart was bent vpon her Northern Recess, to which I was soe averse ; and I was confident she would not long have enjoy'd herselfe in it ; nor could the distance of Herefordsheir have worne him out of her thoughts, which that of France and Spaine could not doe. The trueth is, I did heartily pittty that worthy Gentleman, and saw noe reason in the world why they should not both be happy in each other, and my friend composed, without takeing any exterordnary or singular course ; tho' on

the other hand, when I considered thro' what difficulties and reluctances, this tender creature, now in the flower of her beauty, witt, and reputation att court, would sacrifice all to God, I could hardly abstaine from crying out, O magnanimous Virgin, I applaud your designe, I approve, I admire your choice ; I magnifye your example ; itt is great, 'tis illustrious, because it is the better part, and formed vpon just consideration ; you have weighed itt long, and enquired of God : I allow, I allow, and envye your purpose ; O sweet repose of a devout soule, the flames of Celestial love, the fruition of Jesus, the antepasts of Heaven, what shall I call, what shall I name it ; Consummate felicitye who has none to feare, none to serve, none to love butt God ; but whilst you are made free why leave you me behind, intangl'd in the world, whilst you are in the light, I [am] in darkness and a chaos ; for when you are gone what is the Court or Country to your friend. I shall see you no more in the Circle, nor Joine voices with you in the Quire, nor visitt your holy cell ; with you our Joyes are departed, receive me then from this hatefull abode ; and begg of God, that the circumstances of my life being composed, I, who Emulate, may Imitate your example, and devote the remainder of my few dayes to eternity ; or at least while I am to converse here below, (for you are gone from the Earth) may I live in the contemplation of your virtues, and be a part of your Intercessions. Goe then, my holy freind, when you please, and be happy.

Madam, you may possibly imagine this a Romantic folly, or the transport of some lover ; butt I assure

you, they were the dictates of my mind and heart, whilst I was Councelling her to stay and to marry; for, tho' I thought this more expedient, I could not but pronounce that the more perfect and extraordinary well. Thus she continued att Twicknam, as it were, in probation, for the most part retired, and sometymes in conversation. He often came to visitt her, and that broke her heart if he abstain'd from comeing. She was still vnëasy; soe after some weeks, she returnes to London, with full resolution of beginning her Journey, and the very day was prefixt; butt when it approach'd, indeed it was not possible to pacifye my Lady Berkley; who being to lose the most sweet and agreeable companion in the world, imploy'd all that friendshipp, love, and passion could inspire for the changeing her resolution, and the Convulsion was so sensible to them both, that she was forced to give way to her Importunityes, and deliberate on it some longer tyme. Nor was itt alltogether in the consideration of my Lady alone, that she suffer'd herselfe to be prevailed on, there were others whome (when it came to the Test) she was vnwilling to leave for soe long a tyme, and soe great a distance, and among them, I should be strangely vngratefull, not to acknowledge the share I had in her thoughts and excellent nature, when I shall acquaint you of the Resolution she had to take a little house att Greenwich; and I had commission from her to find out a place whither she might retire to, without goeing as it were out of the world, into the North; not being able as she affirmed, to comply any longer with the receiveing and paying Impertinent visitts, and other avocations and circumstances, which took vpp all her tyme att London,

tho' with a Lady who soe much esteem'd her. I confess, I was not forward to promote this designe, not only because I thought [it] inconvenient for a Lady soe young, and who was allready disposed to a more than ordinary reservedness, to cherish the humour ; butt that it would appeare like something over singular in her and prejudiciall to her health. I proposed therefore, her accepting the best accomodation I could give her, and she had certainly spent some considerable tyme with my wife, and retired to the little Cell, where your Ladyshipp has sometymes found her ; but my Lady Berkley could not suffer this Ecclipse, or endure that she should goe from her with any patience. Itt was on this that she writes me thus at large what conflicts she had endur'd ; and att the close :—"My best friend as to my being in your family, itt was allmost, and ah ! that it had not been allmost, butt alltogeather ; for whatever you think, it is hard for me to describe how sorry I am to be thus farr from so deare a friend ; and you don't know that I have given over severall other proposals of settling my selfe, when that thought comes into my head, that I shall be a great way from you, vnless I continue where I am att least for some months, till God is pleased to dispose of me one way or other."

Butt whilst she was in this vncertainty and suspence where she should fix, and that the winter began to approach, there was a play to be acted att Court before their Majestyes, wherein none were to be Actors butt persons of the most Illustrious quality ; the Lady Mary, since Princess of Orange, the Dutchess of Monmouth, and all the shineing beautyes ; and itt was not possible

to leave her out, who had vpon the like solemnity formerly, and when she was Maid of Honour, acquitted her selfe with soe vniversall applause and admiration; and verily, never was any thing more charmeing and more a divertisement, than to hear her at any tyme recite, or read a Dramatick poem. She had not only a most happy memory, butt exquisite Judgment, and could add those motions to her voice, as gave what she pronounced, the greatest sweetness and grace Imaginable. This, though she would heretofore and butt rarely have done for diversion, and amongst freinds, the most innocentt in the world, she had now intirely taken leave of, and butt in Compliance with some great Ladyes (whome she could not decently refuse) did she willingly see a play att the Theater; and therefore, to be now herselfe an Actoress (tho' among such an Assembly of noble Persons) was to putt a Mortification on her, that cost her not only great reluctancy, butt many teares. Butt there was no refuseing; the King and Duke had laid their Commands vpon her, to beare a part with the Lady Mary, and others of Illustrious name. I came often to her when she was reciteing, and am wittness with what extreame regrett, and how vnwelcome to her this honour was. Butt she had att this moment alsoe another affaire in hand, which more Imported her, and the difficulty in compassing that which solely by his Majestes favour was to be obtain'd, dispos'd her the more reasonably to comply. She had ever since her Recess from Court, liv'd in expectation of the present which of course their Majestyes vsed to make to the Maids of Honour, who haveing waited a competent time vpon the Queene, doe either marry or

withdraw from Court with their Royall permission ; and now had she newly solicited the Duke to bespeake my Lord Treasurer about it, who gave her kind words, butt told her he must have the Kings particular direction in it, butt in the meane while, was not forward to put his Majestye in mind of it ; and there was nothing to which she had a greater aversion then the Importuneing great persons in her owne behalfe, for Civility which did not flow naturally from those in whose power it lay to oblige her. “I perceive,” sayes she, in a letter to me, written 22d September, on this occasion, “that my buissness makes noe advance, and that where I least expected difficulty I find the greatest. The King sayes nothing to my Lord Treasurer, nor my Lord to him ; soe that for ought I perceive, ’tis likely to depend thus a long tyme : well, Gods will be done, as in Heaven, soe on Earth ; in the meane tyme I am extreemly heavy, for I would be free from that place, and have nothing to doe in itt att all ; butt it will not be, for the play goes on mightily, which I hoped would never have proceeded farther. Dear friend, I begg your prayers this cloudy Weather, that God would endow me with patience and Resignation. Would you beleive itt, there are some that envy me the honour (as they esteeme it) of acting in this play, and pass malicious Jestes vpon me. Now you know I am to turne the other Cheeke, nor take I notice of itt.”

See the humility of this excellent Creature, who you soe well knew, looked on this occasion as one of her greatest afflictions, and would have devolved the share she had in this Court Magnificence on any other

Lady with a thousand acknowledgments, had their Majestyes butt excused her; butt there was no retreating; she had her part assigned her, which, as itt was the most illustrious, soe never was there any perform'd with more grace, and becomeing the solemnity. She had on her that day near twenty thousand pounds value of Jewells, which were more sett off with her native beauty and luster then any they contributed of their owne to hers; in a word, she seemed to me a Saint in Glory, abstracting her from the Stage. For I must tell you, that amidst all this pomp and serious impertinence, whilst the rest were acting, and that her part was sometyes to goe off, as the scenes required, into the tiring roome, where severall Ladyes her companions were railing with the Gallants triflingly enough till they were called to reenter, she vnder pretence of conning her next part, was retired into a Corner, reading a booke of devotion, without att all concerning herselfe or mingling with the young Company; as if she had no farther part to act, who was the principall person of the Comedy; nor this with the least discernable affectation, butt to divert and take off her thoughts from the present vanity, which from her soule she abhorred. I mention the passage as a singular work of her reall piety, and to shew how she continually applyed her mind on all occasions, and how little transported with those splendid follyes and gay entertainments which vsually take vp soe much of the pretious tyme which is given vs to worke out our Salvation. I need not enlarge vpon the argument of the Poem, which you may be sure, however defective in other particulars, was exactly modest, and suiteable to the Persons, who were

all of the first rank and most illustrious of the Court : nor need I recount to your Ladyshipp with what a surprizeing and admirable aire she trode the Stage, and performed her Part, because she could doe nothing of this sort, or any thing else she undertooke, indifferently, butt in the highest perfection. Butt whilst the whole Theater were extolling her, she was then in her owne Eyes, not only the humblest, butt the most diffident of herself, and least affecting praise.

Thus ended the Play, butt soe did not her affliction, for a disaster happened which extreamly concern'd her, and that was the loss of a Diamond of considerable value, which had been lent her by the Countess of Suffolke ; the Stage was immediately swept, and dilligent search made to find it, butt without success, soe as probably it had been taken from her, as she was oft inviron'd with that infinite Crowd which tis impossible to avoid vpon such occasion. Butt the loss was soone repair'd, for his Royall Highness vnderstanding the trouble she was in, generously sent her wherewithall to make my Lady Suffolke a present of soe good a Jewell. For the rest of that dayes triumph, I have a particular account still by me of the rich Apparell she had on her, amounting, besides the Pearles and Pretious Stones, to above three hundred pounds, butt of all which she immediately disposed her selfe, soe soone as ever she could gett clear of the Stage. Without complimenting any Creature, or trifling with the rest who staid the collation and refreshment that was prepar'd, away she slipps like a Spiritt to Berkley House, and to her little Oratorye ; whither I waited on her, and left her on her

knees, thanking God that she was delivered from this vanity, and with her Saviour againe, never, sayes she, will I come within this temptation more whilst I breath.

And thus Mrs. Blagge took her leave of the pomp and glory of the world, and with fresh resolutions that if other circumstances did not intervene, namely, such as might soe alter her condition as decently to countenance her longer stay in these Parts, she would yett betake herselfe to her design'd retreat. She was not satisfied that those who could not butt take notice what Person it was she preferr'd before all the world, should speak of her withdrawing from Court, and liveing now soe long near it without proceeding any further, tho' divers could not be driven from the opinion that she was allready marryed. Itt is certaine that excellent Man could never think of parting with her, nor she herselfe from soe many Friends besides, as infinitely vallued her; butt vnless he could alsoe decently have taken himselfe from Court, which was the thing they both projected and desired, that they might wholly quit all dependancys which interrupted their living together, butt which for many prudent considerations had been inconvenient for him as yett, she was not easily perswaded to linger here and be vpon vncertaintyes, who had all along in her Eye the modelling of her life, so as not to be obliged to those compliances she was of necessity to vndergoe in a Station soe near to the Court, unless Mr. G. should fix on firme Employment as might not only countenance her stay and marrying, butt render other circumstances easy likewise: tho', as I said, there was nothing which they

both did breathe after more then to have settled somewhere remote in the Country, from all Intanglements of the World. Thus farr she had pleased herself to acquaint me with her most intimate concerns. I doe not affirme that to obviate some objections of hers he meditated the purchase of that honorable Office which he afterwards succeeded in, butt the Master of the Robes, now Earle of Rochester, discovering his intention about this tyme to part with that place, might, in my opinion, be an inducement with them to marry, and rather trust God with the event of things, then give the World occasion, after soe long expectation, to think she made a retreat out of rashness or discontent: wherefore vpon the 16th of May, which was Assention Day, they both marryed together in the Temple Church, by the Reverend Doctor Lake, one of his Royall Highnesse Chaplaines, my Lady Berkley and a Servant of the Brides onely being present, and I think nobody else, both the blessed Paire receiveing the holy Sacrament, and consecrateing the Solemnity with a double Mistery.

Her not acquainting me with this particular of a good while after, occasioned a friendly quarrell between vs, that she who had intrusted me for many years with all her concerns, nay her greatest Inclinations, and vpon occasion not only named me for the particular Friend that should be wittness of her Marriage, butt give her to her Husband, should now with such Industry conceale it from me. And now I'll tell your Ladyshipp how I could not butt discover it, for noe sooner was the Knott tyed, butt she one day desired I

would lett her pervse all the Letters I had of hers, and which she knew I too religiously reserv'd, not that she could be conscious of haveing ever written that to me which might not have past the severest Eye, butt because there being in many of them professions of the sinceritye and holy friendship that an excellent Soule (and such as hers was) could express, they might by any accident possibly fall into hands that prophane every thing, and most, [the] innocent and virtuous; I failed not to transmitt them to her, nor she to returne them, as indeed finding nothing in them which should cause her to deprive me of a 'Treasure she knew I soe infinitely vallued; nor could I beleive that tho' she had given [herself] to so worthy a Person she design'd by sending for her Letters to break with me, as Ladys vse to doe with vnfortunate Rivalls: for she thus accompanyes her Pacquett:

My Friend, This being Tuesday, a Day which long since you know has belonged to a Friend of myne, I have putt togeather all the Letters, Papers, and other Fragments, excepting Meditations, which I think you have Coppyes of, and among which are some Prayers of mine, and all your Bookes; only that you last sent me, and I am now reading, of the Intercourse betweene Christ and the Soule, I desire to retaine, because now and then I am much pleased and softned with some passages of it; and now I have this day prayed your prayers, thought your thoughts, wish'd, I dare say, your wishes, which were that I might every Day sett looser and looser to the things of this World, discerning, as every day I doe, the folly and vanity of it: how

short all its Pleasures, how trifling all its Recreations, how false most of its Friendshippes, how transitory every thing in it, and on the contrary, how sweete the Service of God, how delightfull the meditateing on his Word, how pleasant the Conversation of the Faithfull, and above all, how charmeing Prayer, how glorious our Hopes, how gracious our God is to all his Children, how gentle his Corrections, and how frequently by the first Invitations of his Spiritt, he calls vs from our low Designes to those great and noble ones of serveing him, and attaineing eternall happiness; these have been this Dayes Thoughts and Imployment; for my Lady Hamilton being here, and some Freinds att Cards, I have had the whole Day to myselve. Rejoyce with me my Friend and be exceeding glad, for soe it becomes vs whenever wee have oppertunity of serveing him.

And now, Madam, by this, which accompanied the redition of her Letters, your Ladyshipp may conclude what Courtshipp there vsed to pass betweene vs; however, her solicitude thus for them on a suddaine might well give me vmbrage, and I was resolved to live vnder an affected Ignorance, assured by knowing, and as afterwards I learn'd, that this niceness could never proceed from herselfe, but from some other prevalent obligation; and I ever esteemed it an Impertinence to be over curious when I found there was designe of con-cealement, and should have much wondred att it of her to me, butt that I was soe perfectly acquainted with her Virtues; whereof one, and that none of the least care in her sex, was that whenever she was vnder a

promise of Sacrifice, nothing in the World could vnlock her Bosome, or slack her resolution. A Secrett was indeed a Secrett when comitted to her : and yett againe, when I called to mind the reiterated Promisses she had made me never to alter her condition without adviseing with me, I was somtymes in suspence of my Conjectures, and would often reproach myselfe for the Suggestion. Nor did this a little confirme me that she was not married, that my Lady Berkley now vpon her going with her Husband, design'd Ambassoder Exterordinarye to the Court of France, and Plenepotentiarye at the famous Treaty of Nymeghen, she solemnly consulted me about her accompanying her Ladyshipp to Paris, and staying there with her some competent tyme, to see how God would dispose of things. I must acknowledg I was not soe averse from this proposall of hers, as hopeing it might divert her melancholy designe and hank[ering] after Herefordsheir, and since my son, then butt a Youth, had importun'd me to lett him travell, I was the easier inclin'd to gratifye him, vpon the assurance I had of the great care she would have of him, since he was not only to accompany her in the way, butt be in the same House with her, and in all things injoin'd to follow her dirrections. Nor ever could he have had soe blessed an opportunitye of improveing himselfe ; this little selfe interest obtain'd on me I confess, att that tyme, butt such as I would most willingly have sacrificed, could I have prevail'd with her to stay without pursueing her Notherne Journey, where [the] abandoning herselfe to Solitude, must soone have ruin'd her health and made her vnhappy.

This excursion then concluded on, and lyeing intirely vpon me for her Provisions and Supplyes abroad, her mind seem'd to be much att ease, butt it was some Months that this resolution was taken ere they sett forth, and all this tyme, I am perswaded, she and her Husband liv'd with the same reserves that the Angells doe in Heaven, not thinking fitt to cohabitt till they declar'd their Marriage, which for reasons best knowne to themself's they did not doe till she came back from France againe. In this interim, and towards the latter end of June, she did me the honour to pass a fortnight att my little Villa, and brought me a Letter of Attorney to transact all her concerns dureing her absence, as looking now every Day when my Lord Berkley would be dispatched and enter on his Journey, when behold vpon the 27th a Fitt of an Appoplexy seizing on him as he was sitting at the Councell Table at White Hall, and continueing on him all that night, without the least appearance of releasing him from its mortall effects, or if that might be possible, of ever restoreing him to tollerable sence and vigour, banish'd all thoughts of Embasyes, and consequently of our goeing into France. But God was more gracious to him, for the Phisitians had beyond all expectations, and even amidst dispair, brought him not only out of this fatall Paroxysme, butt after some tyme to soe much strength (tho' in most men's opinions not perfectly restored to his memorye and abilityes) as nothing would divert him from his intended progress. On the 10th of November his Excellency sett forth with his Traine, my son and I accompanying them the first Day to Sittinborne; for in regard of his Lordshipps indisposition they made butt

easy Journeys. Canterbury was our next nights repose; when in the Morning after wee had been att Prayers in the Cathedrall, Mrs. Godolphin and I walking alone togeather, she declared to me what exceeding regrett she was in to leave her Friends. Not without many teares I expostulated with her, why she would goe then, I am engaged, sayes she, to my Lady Berkley, who tells me I breake her Heart if I forsake her, and you see in what condition her Lord is, and poore Woman, what would become of her if he should dye, and she have never a Friend by her? nor would I have People think I retire out of any other respect. Butt Mr. E. if ever I returne againe, and doe not marry, I will still retire, and end my Dayes among you, and you are like to have the share of the trouble; for she had often said she would divide her Life among her Friends, and did me the honour to putt me into the Rank of one of the first.

This, Madam, was the only tyme that in her Life she ever prevaricated with me, and cover'd it with that address; and was, I am most assured, in deepest sorrow, as all my former suspicions of her being married vanish't. Doe you not think, sayes she, that it afflicts me to the Soule to part with you, and from one who I am sure you believe I love intirely, and leave in my Condition? This, vttered with a fflood of sorrow, I was not able to sustain without reciprocall kindness and tenderness. Butt the tyme now call'd us to break off this Conversation, the saddest that in my Life I ever saw [her] in; she had left her Heart att another Place, and with one that therefore did not accompany her, because

he was of a tender nature, and durst not trust his Passion, whilst their Designe was to conceal their relation: Wee arrived this evening att Dover, where, after supper, calling me into her Chamber, she sign'd and delivered me her Will, before her Maid, wherein she had me her Administrator: for it seems her Husband had impower'd her to dispose of what she pleas'd, and as she pleased, as afterwards she told me; this done, she desir'd I would pray with her, and soe I left her, as full of Sorrow as she could hold.

Early the next Morning I waited on her againe, and againe, and fell into the same resentments; and that now she was soe near the tyme when she must be separated from them she lov'd, I know not how, said I, you part from your Lover, butt never may you feelee what it is to part from a Friend. I beleive there is one that you really love, and that 'tis mutuall, how is it then you thus goe from him, and he from you? this is strange proceedings, 'tis spirituall, 'tis high, 'tis mysterious and singular; but find it a name if you can, for I confess I vnderstand it not; doe you preserve serenity of mind, and yett continue languishing? Nothing is in nature soe repugnant as Love and absence, where nothing forbids the object to be present. O heroick Soules, if you think to be att ease, I shall be glad; butt greatly oblig'd to learne the Secrett, and be taught to beare this Divulsion with as little pain, since I know of noe In-gagement you have to goe from your Friends and those whom you profess to love. Goe back, goe back then, and be happy both, for this Course will weare you both out, if really you love him. For goodness sake doe not break my Heart (sayes she), you see I am engaged; and

then she wept and wore such a cloud of Sorrow all that Morning, that she could hardly speak a word when I lead her downe to the Company, now prepareing to goe on board. Itt was vpon the 13th of November that vpon the Beach wee tooke solemn leave, and I should discover too much of my weakness to express the trouble I was in, to see her overwhelm'd with grief that she could not speake one word ; butt thus she was carried into the Yatch, when being a little launched into the Sea, the Fort from the Castle gave his Excellencye 17 Guns, and was answered with five, according to the Forme.

I recount this passage to your Ladyshipp more minutely, as being the most passionate and most mysterious ; nor will I therefore make any reflections on it then what I am perswaded your Ladyshipp must doe, and then conclude them with admiration how two Persons that lov'd each other soe intirely, could support a Divorce soe long ; or what might be the Cause, if any other there were, butt a singular and extreme niceness not to come together, which they might be suspected to doe, however to appearance they lived reserv'd, till they publicly avow'd their Marriage, which you may remember they forbare till they had made their Families and Equipage complete.

On the 5th of December, she writt me word of their safe arrivall att Paris, and how they had dispos'd of themselves ; together with an Account of my Lord Ambassadors magnificent Entry and Audience att the French Court, with other pompious Circumstances,

which yett soe little concern'd this admirable Creature, that she would only be noe Spectator of it, butt not soe much as once appeared att Court all the tyme of her being att the Ambassadors House. And tho' the Report of such a Beauty and Witt had soe forerun her arrivall, by some who had known her in the Circle att Court, that the French King was desireous to see her in that att Saint Germans; yett she soe order'd matters as to avoid all occasions of goeing thither, and came back to England without giveing that great Monarch the satisfaction of one Glaunce, or her selfe of the Splendor or Vanity of his Court; which is soe singular a Note in her sex, and of one naturally soe curious and observeing, that I cannot pass it over without a just remarke, especially being a Lady soe infinitely compleasant, and of a nature soe obligeing, Mistress alsoe of the French Tongue to such perfection, as rendered her capable of entertaining Persons of the highest quality, nor was this reservdness out of humour or singularity. She now considers her selfe a marryed Woman, and tho' she went over to accompany my Lady, there was no necessity for her to appeare att Court, where the virtues of strangers did not allways protect the Sex from Inconveniencies; and she was resolv'd to give no occasion to be talk'd of or admir'd. All the Tyme she could redeeme from those Civilityes she owed my Lady, and which now begun to be very tedious to one whose Heart was in another Country, she spent in Devotion, reading excellent Bookes, and converseing with some few of her Acquaintance, butt without gratifyeing her curiosity by goeing out to see the many rarities which the famous Citty she was in invites all strangers to, vn-

less it were that of her goeing one afternoone to a Cloyster of Nuns ; whose manner of liveing did not displease her, whilst nothing of their Superstition could endanger one soe well principled in her Religion. I will give your Ladyshipp a transcript of the first Letter sent me after her arrival att Paris, to comfirme it.

“My Friend, I promised you an Account of our Journey hither ; there was nothing in it of exterordinary, no ill accident, nothing like Pintos Travells. Since I came to Paris, I have hardly been out of doores to visit any body, butt there has been a Preist to visitt me ; butt without Vanity I think I said as much for my Opinion as he did for his. I am now reading Moun-sieur Clauds Defence de la Reformation, and like it most exceedingly ; soe as you need have noe fear of me on that side. God knows, the more one sees of their Church, the more one finds to dislike in itt ; I did not imagine the tenth part of the Superstition I find in it, yett still could approve of their Orders. Their Nun-neryes seem to be holy Institutions, if they are abused 'tis not their fault : what is not perverted ? Marriage itt selfe is become a snare, and People seem to dispose of their Children young, lest the remedy increase the disesease : butt when I have commended that baile of theirs, I have said for them, I think, all that reasonably can be said. One thing I must tell you, Friend, People can have the Spleens here in Paris, lett them say what they will of the Aire ; butt if Arithmetick will cure itt, I am goeing with my Charge, your Son, to be a very hard Student, and wee intend to be very wise.”

I present you, Madam, with this Fragment of a Letter, to shew your Ladyshipp how she spent her Tyme, when she could redeeme it from Compliances with the Company, and the Decencyes of such Visitts as were not to be resisted where Persons of Qualitye came to see her ; butt of which she grew soe weary att last—and for another reason you may conjecture,—as within a Month or two of her arrivall, this excellent Creature was quite sick of France.

“I am weary,” says she, in another Letter to me of the 4th of February, “of my Life, I have here no tyme for my Soule. Cards wee play att four Houres every Day ; whoever comes to visitt, I must be by to interprett ; where ever a certaine Lady goes (if my Lady H. be not att hand), I must trudge ; soe that poore I can scarce say my Prayers, and seldome or never read. Dear Friend, pray heartyly, that if it be Gods will, I may be restor’d to my owne People, and to my God ; for tho’ he be every where I cannott call vpon him as I was wont att home : therefore for God’s sake pray that I may speedily and once again worshipp him in his Congregation, and enjoy the assistance of his Grace, the presence of my best Friends, whom as my Life I love. I could content my selfe with any thing, I think, were I once at home. Butt I must doe nothing rashly ; I hope yett in God through your Prayers, and my owne firme Resolutions, to gett home assoone as ever I can, being quite wearyed with dedicateing my selfe perpetually to other People. ’Tis almost one a Clock ere I can gett to Bedd, soe that in the Morning I am not able to rise before Eight, and passing then an Hour in Prayer

and Psalmes, and an Houre and a halfe in reading, sometymes one Booke, sometymes another, by the tyme I am dress'd Publique Prayers begin ; then follows Dinner, then Talk till 3, then goe to Publick Prayers, then prate againe, God knows till Six a Clock, and then with much difficulty gett away to pray, for my selfe, for you, and some other, then am I call'd to Cards till Bed tyme. O pittye, pittye me, dear Friend !"

I shall need repeate noe more of her sad laments ; diverse have I by me, and yet it was still more for this interruption of her assiduous course and devotion than for any other consideration. She lookes vpon it as an Exile from the House of God, which like holy David, was to her intollerable. Even amongst the circumstances of splendor, ease, and worldly diversion, she had been made beleive she should be as much Mistress of her retirements att Paris as she was wont to be att Berkley House: tho' neither there was she att the Liberty she breath'd after, Devotion, and Solitude, and Leasure for the improvement of her Mind. Butt this Affliction did not last, for vpon my Lord Ambassadors prepareing to goe to Nimoghen, and a reall pretence of an Affaire that concern'd her, namely, the disposing of a considerable summe of mony intrusted with me, she decently tooke the oppertunitye of Mr. Bernard Green-vile returneing out of Italy, (whither he had been sent with a Publique Character to the great Duke of Tuscany) and passing through Paris, of being conducted by that honorable and worthy Gentleman, without those difficultyes she might otherwise have met with ; nor doubt I butt my Lady Berkley, who was privy to

her being marryed, and had now another Lady with her, less scrupulous and more diverting, was the easier wrought on to part with one she could suffer to be supplanted by another, after such professions of the most superlative Friendship and Indearments in the World, and which, I am certaine, contributed not a little to what afflicted this tender and good natured Creature.

Mrs. Godolphin (for soe now I call her) haveing thus taken leave of Paris, arrived att Dover the 3d of Aprill, in which interim I had by her direction order'd her Accomodations to be remov'd from Berkley House to Doctor Wernetts in Covent Garden, whose wife was her near relation. Soe on the Sixth of Aprill she gave me notice of her being come to London, where the next Day I waited on her, to the no small Joy, you may be sure, of all her Friends, as well as of my selfe. I will not repeate to your Ladyshipp what had allready pass'd betweene vs in friendly expostulations, for the vnkindness of her soe long concealing from me the circumstance of her Marriage, because she had express'd her Sorrow with such an asseveration as in my whole Life before I never heard her vtter, soe as I could not but forgive her heartyly. Nor did this suffice, for she often acknowledg'd her fault, and beg'd of me that I would not diminish ought of my good Opinion of her, to the least wounding the intire Freindshipp which was betweene vs; protesting she had been soe afflicted in her selfe for it, that were it to doe againe, noe consideration or compliyanee in the World should have prevailed on her to break her Promise, as some had done to her regrett. In good earnest I was sorry to see

her troubled for it, considering the Empire of a passionate Love, the singular and silent way of the Lover, whose gravitye and temper you know soe well, and with whome I had nothing of that intimacy and in-dear'd Friendshipp, which might intitle me to the Confidence he has since not thought me vnworthy of. I therefore mention this passage, because she was a Person of soe exact and nice a Conscience, that for all the World she would not have violated her Promise ; nor did I ever find it in the least save this, which, when all is done, was of noe great importance. Save that I tooke it a little to heart she should soe industriously conceale a thing from one to whome she had all along communicated her most intimate thoughts ; and when that affection of hers was placed, which she would often acknowledge was not possible for her to moderate as she desir'd, or bring to the least indifference, after all her innocent stratagems and endeavours, and even sometymes resolutions, to quitt all the World, and think of him only in her Prayers.

This scene being thus over, to my great satisfaction, and, as vpon all occasions I advised, when those melancholy thoughts and fancyes vs'd to interrupt her quiett, wee will looke vpon this Lady now, as a settled Woman, and in the Armes of that excellent Person the most worthy to possess her. Itt was on the 13th of Aprill that she did me the honour of a visitt att my house, expressing infinite acknowledgments to Almighty God for his goodness to her, after a most solemn manner, and that once againe she was come among her friends, begging of me, that I would continue

to assist her with those little services she was pleased to accept. And now haveing thought fitt to make their marriage noe longer a secrett,—for she had not yett, I think, revealed it to her sister, nor did his Majesty or Court, know any thing of it, till she was in Equipage to appeare as became her—she obtained of the Queen a considerable augmentation of a Lease she had of certaine Lands in Spalding, about which she was pleased to make vse of my assistance, for the settlement of it. This was in May, and by the next month she had furnish'd and formed her pretty family att Berkley house, whether on the 27th of June, she removed out of Covent Garden, and began to receive the visitts and vsuall Congratulations vpon Marriages, soe vniversally approved of.

Dureing this, I had the good fortune to secure a considerable summe due to her, which lay in some danger. V. in September began to build and accomodate that pretty habitation for her in Scotland yard, which she contrived and adorn'd with soe much Ingenuity and decency; and where your Ladyshipp and all who knew and lov'd that excellent creature, have been soe chearfull, soe happy, and so vnhappy, that I never can pass or think vpon the place butt a thousand sad thoughts affect me.

t t was dureing the fitting of that Lodging, that she came downe to vs att Sayes Court againe, and blessed the little apartment you know, with her presence, from the 28th of September, to the 19th of October, her husband then being att Newmarkett with his Majesty;

nor can your Ladyshipp forgett how sweetly she liv'd in their retirement all this winter, till hearing of my Lord Berkleys returne from his Embassy, she thought fitt to remove to her own Lodgings, now finished att White-hall for alltogeather ; which accordingly she did on the last of March, settling with that pretty and discrete oeconomye soe naturall to her ; and never was there such an household of faith, never Lady more worthy of the blessings she was entering into, who was soe thankfull to God for them.

“Lord,” (says she, in a Letter to me) “when I this day considered my happyness, in haveing soe perfect health of body, chearfullness of mind, noe disturbance from without, nor grieve within, my tyme my owne, my house quiett sweete and pretty, all manner of Conveniencys for serving God, in publick and private, how happy in my Friends, Husband, Relations, Servants, Creditt, and none to waite or attend on, but my dear and beloved God, from whome I receive all this, what a melting joy run through me att the thoughts of all these mercyes, and how did I think myselfe obliged to goe to the foote of my Redeemer, and acknowledge my owne vnworthiness of his favour: butt then what words was I to make vse of ; truely att first of none att all, but a devout silence did speak for me ; but after that I power'd out my prayers, and was in an amazement that there should be such a sin as ingratitude, in the world, and that any should neglect this great duty ; butt why doe I say all this to you my friend ? truely that out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaketh, and I am still soe full of it, that I cannot forbear expressing my thoughts to you.”

And that this was not a transient rapture, vpon the sence of her present Enjoyment, butt a permanent and devout affection ; vpon the 16th day of October following, which day she constantly vsed to give me an account of her concerns the year past, I find this passage in a Letter.

“God Almighty has been Infinitely gracious to me this year, for he has brought me back into my owne native Country in safety, and honourably prospered me in my temporall affaires ; above my expectation continued my health, and my friends ; deliver’d me from the torments of suspence ; given me a husband that above all men living I vallue ; in a word, I have little to wish butt a Child, and to contribute something to my friends happyness, which I most impatiently desire ; and then I must think before I can remember, what I would have more then I enjoy in this world, butt the continuance of a thankfull heart to my God.”

This, Madam, was the vse and the gratefull returne she made of the short blessings she enjoyed. Nor need I acquaint your Ladyshipp, with what care she instructed her servants, how sedulously she kept her family to Religious dutyes, how decently she received her friends, how profitably she imployed every moment of tyme. Nothing in this world had she more to wish, butt what God soone after gave her, that she might be Mother of a Child ; which she soe passionately desir’d after two yeares that she yett had none, as in the intervall she tooke home to her, a poore orphan girle, whome she tended, instructed and cherished, with the

tenderness of a naturall mother. For I have beheld when she dress'd and undress'd it, and laid it to sleep with all the circumstances of a carefull Mother and nurse ; till it pleased God to give her certaine hopes of the blessing she thought onely wanting to consummate her happyness. Nor did (as your Ladyshipp well knows) any Inconveniency of that burthen, at all slacken her devout course, but improve it rather ; when to other considerable Charityes a little before she was brought to bedd, she sent me £.70 to distribute ; by which were releived many indigent people and poore house keepers ; and this was her owne entirely, for her excellent husband had the year before settled on her, not onely the product, but absolute disposall of the portion which she brought, to above £.4000, for the irreversible continuance thereof, they were pleased to intrust me to manage the Stock, soe as now haveing still wherewithall to inlarge her Charitye, without prejudice ; there was indeed nothing wanting which she desired more in the world, as often she would repeate it to me, butt the life of that Dear Man, for soe she called her husband, for whome she had now and then much apprehension, subject as he was to fevors that had formerly endangered him, not in the least foreboding her owne departure, and leaveing him behind her ; tho' vpon a dreame of myne I once related to her some yeares before, she affirmed with much earnestness that she should certainly dye before me : which tho' I tooke little notice of then, and believed nothing less, I cannot but since reflect vpon ; especially when I call to mind, the order she gave the painter, that in the picture she some years since bestowed vpon me, she

would be drawne in a lugubrious posture, sitting vpon a Tomb stone adorned with a Sepulcher Vrne ; nor was this att all my fancy, butt her express desire. Butt to lay noe more stress on this, how frequently have I heard her say, she lov'd to be in the house of Mourning. Nor does your Ladyshipp forgett how a few dayes before her Reckoning was out, my Lady Viscountess Mordant giveing her a visitt, and finding her eyes swollen with teares, she told her she had being doeing a sad, yett to her a pleasing thing, and that was the writeing something to her husband which she requested he would doe for her, if she should dye of that Child ; and then added the great Comfort and satisfaction it was to her, that she had putt her little concerns in order, and otherwise made preparations against all surprizes, and was perfectly resign'd. This discourse for the present drew mutuall Tears, but abated nothing of her wonted chearfullness : when on the fifteenth of May, which was the Anniversary of her marriage, she with your Ladyshipp and sister Gr. honour'd my poore house with a visitt, (the last she ever gave me, and therefore not to be forgotten) the perfect good humour she then was in renders the memory of it sad, as well as that she was in the July after, when wee all went with her to Mr. Ashmoles att Lambath who diverted her with many curiosityes : butt after this, growing bigger, she rarely stirr'd abroad, save to the Chappell. Itt was yett againe on the fourth of August, that my Lady Mordant and my wife (by assignation betweene them) went to dyne with her att her pretty appartment, they found her well, but something more then vsually solemne ; she had it seemes

been reading and sorting of papers and Letters, and how, sayes she, is it possible to think of ones friends wee are to leave behind, without concernment; with discourse to this purpose. This more then ordinary Impulse, that she should not outlive the happiness she had soe long wished for, made the Conversation less gay and chearfull then otherwise it was wont to be, and it seemes to me, she had some apprehensions extraordinary, which were not discern'd by any of her friends; when often wishing that she might, if soe it pleas'd God, bring her husband one Child, and leave him that pledge of her intire affection. She seemed to thirst after nothing more than to be with God; and verily what estimate she tooke of these poore satisfactions here, when I have sometymes reflected on the circumstances of her youth and chearfull temper, with the prospect of as much worldly happyness as she could desire, I have extreemly wonder'd att her contempt of it, finding likewise that it did not proceed from any peevish discontent or singularitye of humour, butt from a philosophicall, wise and pious consideration of the vicissitude and instabilitie of all earthly fruitions, and an ardent longing after that glorious state, where (said she) I shall be perfectly att repose, and sin no more. And that these were almost her continuall thoughts and aspirations, see how she entertaines me, in a postscript about the very tyme.

“Lett vs pray, that Gods Kingdome of Grace being received into our hearts, his Kingdome of Glory may succeed, and soe wee ever be with the Lord; which indeed I long for, more then all the satisfactions of this

world ; really Friend there's nothing in it to be chosen for itselfe. Is not eating to satisfye the paine of hunger, sleepe to ease our wearyness, and other divertisements to take off the mind from being too intent on things that it cannot allwayes support without great inconveniency to its facultyes ? Retirement againe is to discharge it of that burthen, and the staines it has contracted by being in conversation, and impertinent Company ; soe that vpon the matter, our intire life is in my opinion, an inquiry after remedies, which doe often if not allways exchange rather than cure our infirmityes ; I acknowledge that God has imparted to me many great blessings, which if our nature were not sadly deprav'd, wee might exceedingly rejoyce in, butt wee make soe ill vse of most of them, that wee turne those things to mischeifes, which are given to vs for our good &c." In this style she goes on, and could a Seneca, or an Antoninus, or indeed the wisest and holiest person have vttered [aught] more divine and piously serious : nor did she say this only, butt she practis'd it : for with what devout and solemne preparations pass'd the rest of this fatall month ! Haveing received the blessed sacrament butt two dayes before she was brought to bedd, soe preventing all possible surprizes, and waiteing now with her wonted alacritye and resignation the approach of the conflict she was to enter vpon, she on the second of September, began first to be sensible of some alteration in her temper, and dureing that night it was concluded it might be her labour, and soe it was. With what exceeding patience, devotion, and courage she sustain'd it, your Ladyshipp, who was all the tyme assisting, with both those excellent sisters, can best tell.

Itt was then on Tuesday the third of that vnfortunate Month, when comeing about 11 a clock in the forenoone as my custome was, to visitt her and ask of her health, that I found she was in Travell; and you may easily imagine how extreemly I was concern'd, not to stirr from the house till I had some assurance that all succeeded well. And indeed to all appearance soe it did. For it pleas'd God that within an hour, your Ladyshipp brought me the joyfull tydeings of a Man Child born into the world, and a very little after admitted me to see and bless that lovely Babe by the Mothers side; when the very first word she spake to me was, I hope you have given thanks to God for his infinite mercy to me; O with what satisfaction, with what joy and over rapture did I hear her pronounce it, with what satisfaction and pleasure did I see the Mother safe, and her desire accomplished, without any accident that could give the least vmbrage or suspicion of approaching danger, soe as me thought of nothing more than rejoyceing and praiseing God, auguring a thousand benedictions.

In this faire and hopefull condition she continued all that day, when her husband, now att Windsor with the Court, being sent for to come to double and compleat the Joy, upon the Thursday following, his little Son was made a Christian, [his name Francis] in presence of both the parents; his Vnkle Sir William Godolphyn, Mr. Harvey, Treasurer to her Majestye, and Lady Berkley being susceptors; the Chaplaines who constantly vsed to say prayers in the family performing the office.

Seeing this dear Lady soe well layd, the Child baptized, and every thing in a hopefull way, my wife, who was now to visitt her, and I, return'd home, as full of joy and satisfaction as wee could be, for the best and most estimable friend wee had in the world ; butt ah, how were wee both surprized, when on the Sunday following there was a Letter delivered me in the Church, about the latter end of the Morning Sermon, in this dolefull style.

“My poore wife is fallen very ill of a ffevor, with lightness in her head. You know who sayes the prayer of the faithfull shall save the sick ; I humbly begg your charitable prayers, for this poore creature and your distracted servant. London : Saturday, 9 a clock.”

O how was I struck through, as with a dart. I am not able to tell your Ladyshipp with how sad and apprehensive thoughts my wife and I hastned imediately to Whitehall ; where wee found her in all the circumstances of danger ; and tho' distinctly knowing those who came to visitt and were about her, yett had the distemper already soe farr prevailed on her spiritts, that it was a sad and mournfull thing to find how her fancy and vsuall temper was disorder'd. To all this, the season happen'd to prove excessively hott, which exceedingly contributed to her suffering. There had been, when I came, butt one physitian sent for ; butt my wife, suspecting (with others) that this violent surprize could not likely proceed from either the intemperance of the weather or impaire of one, soe well laid

as to all appearance as she was, butt possibly from accident, itt was thought advisable to call an experienc'd person in cases of this nature. Butt itt was soe very long ere the doctor could be found, and soe late ere he came, that through the frequency and violence of her fitts, which were now delirious, her spiritts were soe farr wasted, that tho' he were of the same opinion, and that something was omitted, yett would he by no intreaty be perswaded to apply any thing but in conjunction with other phisityans. Doctor Lowther being call'd away some houres before, and besides it being now farr in the night, itt was with exterordinary difficulty that I gott my antient dear and religious friend, Doctor Needham, since with God, and then but valetudinarye himselfe, to come. Others who were sent for, wearyed as they pretended with toyle, would not be prevailed with to rise, except Doctor Short; soe as till now, there had been little attempted; nor any thing even by these with any assurance, so farr she was spent, and her condition not admitting of proper remedies for what they feared, gave slender hopes of success. The Deliriums increase, and allbeit with some promise and intermissions, to appearance, yett were they only such as proceeded from languor and tiredness; soe that tho' she still retained her memory of the persons about her, what she said was altogeather inconsistent, and growing more impetuous and deplorable, gave presage of uttmost danger. This only was highly remarkeable, that in all this disorder of fancy and allmost distraction, she vttered not one syllable or expression that might in the least offend God, or any creature about her; a thing which dureing these alienations of mind does seldome

happen ; butt which shewed how blessed a thing it was to live holylye and carefully, as this Innocent did ; persons that are delirious vsually vttering extravigan-eyes that discover their worst inclinations. Butt she was now in a manner spent, and no't could physitians doe, when neither the cupping nor the pidgeons, those last of remedies, wrought any effect. Other things had been perhapps convenient ; butt there was noe strength to bear inward remedyes, when even the most gentle had been fatall ; and there now appearing a kind of Erisypulus on her back, neck, and armes, the malignancy grew desperate,—and this excellent Creature passes a fiery Triall, exercised in all the circumstances of paine and wearyness. Wee beheld her now languishing vnder the last conflicts till the morning of the next day. There had been, your Ladyshipp knows, a consultation the night before, and a resolution of attempting searching att a venture, if she lived till day, and the rather that the physitians might not seeme to doe nothing in a desperate case, than expecting any good effect without a miracle. Butt when the morning came, finding her still more debilitated, and the paroxysmes impetuous and allmost vncessant, all hopes being given over, vpon the importunitye and recomendation of that excellent and pious lady, the Viscountess Mordant, they permitted one Doctor Ffaber to make tryall of a Cordiall, celebrated by her Ladyshipp for the great matter it had performed, and indeed it seem'd att first to compose her, and somewhat allay the violence of her fitts. Butt the moments were short, and her conflict is repeated with the vsuall violence ; till she who was wont to raise her selfe vp as oft as they

came, now sinkes downe as no more able to sustaine them ; her spiritts faint : till no more pulse perceivable, —for your Ladyshipp and I held her all this while by the hands,—with the most ardent prayers and offices of the holy Man, who continually attended, he earnestly, and wee all devoutly recomend, and she quietly renders vp her happy soule to her blessed Redeemer, in whose bosome she is now deliver'd from all earthly miseryes, and assumed into those blissfull Mansions prepared for his Saints, and such as like her excellent in virtue.

Thus ended this incomparable Lady : our never to be sufficiently lamented losse : leaveing not only a disconsolate husband, whose vnexpressible grieve and deep affliction would hardly suffer him to be a spectator of her languishments, drown'd in tears and prostrate att the mercy seate, butt all her Relations, and who had the honour to know her in as much reall and pungent sorrow as Christians and tender hearts were capable to express, and as was highly due for soe sensible and vniversall a loss, and soe infinitely deplor'd.

This fatall houre was (your Ladyshipp knows) about one o'clock, att noone on the Munday, September the nineth, 1678, in the 25 year and prime of her age. O vnparell'd loss ! O grieve indicible ! By me never to be forgotten—never to be overcome ! Nor pass I the sad anniversary and lugubrious period, without the most sensible emotions, sorrow that draws tears from my very heart whilst I am reciteing it.

Butt thus she pass'd to a better World, when only

worthy of her, when as if presageing what was att hand, she that very day seavenight (as I noted) furnish'd herselfe with the heavenly Viaticum, after an extordinary preparation, preventing the possible disadvantages of what might surprize her spiritts and disorder her recollection with a most pious and heavenly address. Nor was this taken notice of onely by those who were witnesses of it some dayes before she was brought to bedd, but signally appeared in that paper which she had left in the hands of her indear'd Sister in law Mistress Boscawen, to deliver her Husband, in case of mortall accident, which soe soone as it was possible to compose his and the vniversall grief to any temper, was perform'd.

“My deare, not knowing how God Almighty may deale with me, I think it my best course to settle my affaires, soe as that, in case I be to leave this world, noe earthly thing may take vp my thoughts. In the first place, my dear, beleive me, that of all earthly things you were and are the most dear to me; and I am convinced that nobody ever had a better or halfe soe good a husband. I begg your pardon for all my Imperfections, which I am sencible were many; but such as I could help, I did endeavour to subdue, that they might not trouble you: for those defects which I could not rectifye in myselfe, as want of judgement in the management of my family and household affaires, which I owne myselfe to be very defective in, I hope your good nature will excuse, and not remember to my disadvantage when I am gone. I ask your pardon for the vanitye of my humour, and for being often [more]

melancholy and splenetick than I had cause to be. I was allwayes ashamed of myselfe when I was soe, and sorry for it, and I hope it will come into the number of those faults which I could not help. Now (my dear) God be with thee; pray God bless you, and keepe you his faithfull Servant for ever. In him be all thy joy and delight, satisfaction and comfort, and doe not grieve too much for me, since I hope I shall be happy, being very much resign'd to God's will, and leaveing this World with, I hope, in Christ Jesus, a good Conscience. Now, my dear, if you please, permitt me to ask leave to bestow a legacy or two amongst my friends and servants. In the first place, if it might be, I could wish, when the Child I goe with grows of a fitt biggness, itt might be either with my sister Boscawen, or my sister Penn, for I know they will be carefull of its better Part, which is the cheife thing I am concern'd about. In the next place, I desire you would give B—— [her woman] one hundred pounds (the vse of which being six pounds a year, she may live att her Ffather's house vpon, if she will, for I fear she will scarce gett any one to bear with her want of good service, as I have done). For my Maid, if she doe not marry, I hope she will be kept to looke after my Child, when it comes from Nurse. In the meane tyme, you will give her board wages. For my two footemen, I hope you will gett them places as soone as you can, etc. However, if you be not disposed to keepe them, you will give them att parting ten pounds a piece. I desire you will give my Sisters my share of the Queen's Lease, fifty pounds a year; itt is betweene them two, my vnmarried ones I meane; and to my Cozen Sarah an

hundred pounds in mony. To my Lady Silvius my great diamond ring, &c.

“Now, my dear, I have done, if you please to lay out about an hundred pounds more in rings for your five Sisters, to remember me by. I know nothing more I have to desire of you, but that you will sometymes think of me with kindness, butt never with too much grieve. For my Funerall, I desire there may be noe cost bestowed vpon it att all ; butt if I might, I would begg that my body might lye where I have had such a mind to goe myselfe, att Godolphyn, among your freinds. I beleive, if I were carried by Sea, the expence would not be very great ; but I don’t insist vpon that place, if you think it not reasonable ; lay me where you please.

“Pray, my deare, be kind to that poore Child I leave behind, for my sake, who lov’d you soe well ; butt I need not bidd you, I know you will be soe. If you should think fitt to marry againe, I humbly begg that little fortune I brought, may be first settled vpon my Child, and that as long as any of your Sisters live, you will lett it (if they permitt) live with them, for it may be, tho’ you will love itt, my successor will not be soe fond of it, as they I am sure will be.

“Now, my deare Child, farewell ; the peace of God, which passeth all vnderstanding, keepe your heart and mind in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord ; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Sonn, and the Holy Gost, be

with thee, and remaine with thee, ever and ever. Amen."

Then follows what she had intrusted me withall.

This indearing Instance of a truely loyall and admirable Wife were capable of the most noble reflections, soe religious, so tender, soe discreete, and every way becomeing. That she accuses herselfe of, being sometimes more solemne than vsually young Ladyes are, and which she calls the Spleen, I can by noe meanes admitt a fault: and if her other imperfections, of which she beggs pardon, were butt such as her want of oeconomique prudence in the management of her family, I dare pronounce her the most consummate of all the perfections that can adorne or recomend her sex.

I say nothing of that wonderfull affection to her Husband, that made her soe desirous to mingle her dirt with his in a dormitorye 300 miles from the rest of all her Relations, and where to my knowledge she would more contentedly have pass'd all her dayes with him then amidst the splendor of the greatest Court, and where he might be the Horizon, all that she could or cared to see.

The education of her dear Child is next: Observe with what care for the better Part, with what excellent choice for the person to whome she recomended it. Nor does she extend her kindness only to her Relations, butt the meanest of her Servants. As for the Poore, she had not onely sent those good workes before her, which

she now enjoys the treasure and reward of in Heaven, butt tooke order they might be continued after her, and she being dead yett speakes.

I might haply have taken it vnkindly, if she had named so much as a brother, and left me out ; butt the Legatyes she bequeathed, or rather desired her Husband to gratifye her in, were only to her Sisters and your Ladyshipp, except what she bestows among her Domestick ; to one of which she gave noe less than an hundred pounds, and to her owne Sisters the vallue of a thousand ; lastly, to me the honour (att the foote of this Paper) of being mentioned the depositarye of her Trust as I was the distributer of her Bounty. Butt which was more obligeing, the solemn profession to her Husband, a little before her Sickness, that she knew of nothing more she had to finish or wish for in this World, but that she might doe me some signall kindness. I confess she had often both said and written soe to me, butt that she should think of it as a Concerne doubly indeares her memory. This (sayes that excellent Creature) she has left me to doe, and Madam, he has done it, in allowing me the honour of his friendship, and accepting my little services ; for the rest, I have her Picture in the house, and the Idea of her virtues in my heart, besides a thousand expressions of a religious and noble Friendship, vnder her owne fair hand, which I preserve and value above all she could else bequeath me.

There was another small Pacquett seal'd vp, which she desired by the superscription might be burnt, and

not open'd, as accordingly it was perform'd, and, as I conceive, contained the Cypher onely by which she vsually corresponded with her ghostly Father, the Deane of Hereford; or some particulars, which she would not trust her memory with, in case she had lived, for as I acquainted your Ladyshipp, she kept a Catalogue of mercyes, deliverances, successes, resolutions, and other assistances, for the disscussion of her Conscience with the most accurate niceness. Butt I enter not into this secrett.

Thus began, lived, and ended this incomparable Christian, Virgin, Wife, and Friend, for an emulous example of perfection in all those capacityes. Butt after all I have said, impossible will it be to conceive what she was, without endeavouring to imitate and attaine those excellencyes and early virtues which made her what she was: to shew you that—, something I have here attempted according to my poore ability; butt he were a rare Artist indeed could reach the orriginall, and give those last and liveing touches which should make it breathe. But, Madam, this is not to be expressed by lights and shadows which is alltogeather illustrious, and has nothing in it darke.

Here, then, Madam, after I have recounted to you her Life,—butt which reaches the profill onely, and wants a world of finishing,—I should, according to the vsuall method, conclude it with her Character, if that accomplished peice were not reserved for a greater Master, and one that could describe her mind. All I can pretend to, will hardly reach the out strokes, and

when I shall have done my best, be butt an imperfect copy.

Add this paper (Electra) to the fardle of my other Impertinencies; butt take heed to the stepps and progress you make, for if I live, I will write your life, at least from the first approaches of our friendshipp, till I carry it into other Mansions. But because your great humility shall not suffer by the admirable things I must say of you, nor the brightness of the Subject be eclipsed by the defects of the Instrument, it shall be vnder supposed names, but in veritable instances; for either wee want such examples for good writers to exercise their style and talents on, or good writers to transmitt them to posteritye.

I know not really how she could doe the age wee live in more Justice, nor leave that to come a nobler monument of Gratitude for the Improvements your Conversation has taught it; whilst Electra knows this, she will need noe Socrates or Zeno to stand before her; she reveres herselfe, and can doe nothing below her dignitye. I protest to you, the thought that she is allwayes present, and contemplation of her vertues, is more to me than a thousand dead philosophers. But wee have a better monitor, and it were an imbecility infinitely beneath us, to need the veneration of men, when God,—all Eare and Eye, omniscient and omnipresent,—observes both our words and actions. Lett us both, therefore, soe speak with God as if men heard us, and soe converse with men as if God saw us.

Behold, Madam, what I once subscribed at the foote of a Letter to this blessed Creature ; and often she would smile at what I used to repeate upon this subject, and as often did I disbeleive my selfe. Far, very far was it from my imagination, farther, infinitely farther from my desires, to survive (for) this office, who had it constantly in my wishes, that she might close my eyes ; butt soe it has pleased God, that I should verifye my prophecy, and on your Ladyshipp's command, absolve my promise together. I have written her Life, and should now present your Ladyshipp with her Picture : here are Colours, but where is (as I said) the Master ? She sat indeed some considerable tyme to me, and her conversation had been enough to inspire an Artist ; but I assure you, there are some peculiar Graces, which the most skillful doe not arrive to in their most elaborate and finished peeces. And she was full of those, and such as I never yet did see in any of her sex but in her alone, and am certaine never shall, vnless it be in those few peeces she drew her selfe, whereof your Ladyshipp is a breathing and illustrious one, whilst you tread the pathes of her piety and virtues ; this, Madam, I pretend to know, and to shew you from whome I take my measures.

THE PICTURE.

Lett me first then recall to your Ladyshipp's remembrance how she usually passed the day, for an instance allmost inimitable in the station where she was, the Court. I will begin with Sunday the first of the weeke.

Were it never soe darke, wett, or uncomfortable weather, dureing the severity of winter, she would rarely omit being att the Chappell att 7 a'clock prayers, and if a Comunion day, how late soever her attendance were on the Queen, and her owne extraordinary preparation kept her up, she would be dressed and att her private Devotions some hours before the publick office began. This brings to remembrance what I could not then but smile att, that finding one day a long pack thread passing through the key hole of her chamber doore, and reaching to her bed's head, opposite to that of your sisters, if I be not mistaken, and inquireing what it signified, I att last vnderstood, itt had been to awaken her early in the morning, the Centinell, whose station was of course near the entrance, being desired to pull it very hard att such an hour, whilst the other extreame was tyed fast about her wrist, fearing her maid might over sleep her selfe, or call her later then she had appointed.

But besides the monthly Comunions, she rarely missed a Sunday throughout the whole Year, wherein she did not receive the holy Sacrament, if she were in towne and tollerable health ; and I well know she had those who gave her constant advertisement where it was celebrated vpon some more solemn festivals, besides not seldome on the weeke days assisting at one poore creatures or other ; and when sometymes, being in the Country, or on a Journey, she had not these oportunities, she made use of a devout meditation upon that sacred Mistery, by way of mentall Comunion, soe as she was in a continuall state of preparation ; and O

with what unspeakable care and niceness did she use to dress and trim her soul against this Heavenly Banquett, with what flagrant devotion at the Alter. I doe assure your Ladyshipp, I have seen her receive the holy symbolles, with such an humble and melting joy in her countenance, as seem'd to be something of transport, not to say angelic—something I cannot describe : and she has her selfe confessed to me to have felt in her soule such influxes of heavenly Joy as have almost carryed her into another world ; I doe not call them Rapt and Elapses, because she would not have endured to be esteemed above other humble Christians ; butt that she was sometymes visitted with extraordinary favours I have many reasons to believe : see what upon another occasion she writes to me.

“O, my friend, how happy was I on Sunday last. By reason of this foolish play,” (of which I have already given your Ladyshipp an account,) “most imperfect were my preparations, and yett I doe not remember that God was ever more gracious to me but once afore ; and indeed that tyme I had soe great a sence of my owne unworthyness and the wonderfull condescension and love of God, that I had like to have fallen flat on my face ; butt that except this was the most refreshing. O Jesus, (said I,) how happy are wee, how blessed, that have the Lord for our God. And you, blessed Angells, who are present att these assemblyes, admiring the heavenly bounty, I tell you I was even dissolv'd with love to God. And yett, after all this, what wretched things we are : I was drowsy att Church, wandering in my thoughts, and forgettfull of these

favours that very day ; and great cause I had to lament my sinns of even that day. Thus I acknowledged to you Gods love to my poore soule, and my foule ingratitude to him ; that you may pray for the continuance of the one, and I trust the other will in tyme grow less." See this humble soule. But I subjoyne one more.

"I bless God," (says she,) "I grow dayly less fond of the world, more thankfull to God, less solicitous for outward things, and more thirsty for the blessed Sacrament, not as I was wont, nor because I hold it my duty, but out of an ardent desire to commemorate my Saviour's death, and to be againe entertained with the wonderfull pleasure that I feele there, and noe where else. All worldly joyes, all splendid ornaments, titles and honour, would I bring to the feete of my crucified Saviour."

Nor did this blessed Saint hear the word of God with less reverence ; imploying that day almost intirely in pious meditations, and never failing to recollect what she had heard, with that diligence, that there was not a Sermon but what she had abstracted, writeing downe the principall heads of the whole discourse, soe soone as she came from Church (if she had leasure), or, to be sure, in the evening ere she slept ; and this course she never omitted, nor to repeat what she observed of most instructive : and her memory was soe happy, as nothing materiall escaped her. This, to my astonishment, I can testifie.

How would this Lady rejoyce att the approach of

the Lord's day. She has often told me, she felt another soule in her, and that there was nothing more afflicted her, than those impertinent visitts on Sunday Evenings, which she avoided with all imaginable industry ; whilst yett seldome did she pass one without goeing to visitt, pray by, or instruct some poore religious Creature or other, tho' it were to the remotest part of the 'Towne, and sometymes, if the season were inviteing, walke into the fields or Gardens to contemplate the workes of God. In a word, she was allwayes so solemnly chearfull upon that day, and soe devout, that without lookeing into the Kalender, one might have read it in her countenance. Thus was the Sunday taken up in prayers, hearing, receiveing, meditateing on the word and workes of God, acts of Charity, and other holy exercises, without the least formalitye or confusion, because she had cast all her affairs into such a method, as rendered it delightfull as well as holy.

Vpon festivall dayes, she never omitted the offices of the Church ; takeing those opportunityes of visitting poore sick people, relieving and comforting them ; and then would lengthen her evening retirements with proper meditations on the Mystery, or comemoration ; for which she had of her owne collection, apposite entertainments : butt then upon indicted fast dayes, besides what she weekly sett apart her selfe, and (especially before the Monthly Comunions) how extraordinary were her recesses and devotions one very Friday, when she rarely stirr'd out of her little Oratorye butt to publique prayers, and then would end the evenings in visitts of charity ; and did for severall years observe the

Lent with strictness, both as to her reflections and devotion, till finding it much impaire her health and delicate constitution, something of those severe mortifications, she was perswaded to abate; onely the holy weeke her exercises was extended to all the parts of duty, and more solemn preparation, spent in an uninterrupted course of penitentiall and extraordinary devotion, yett without superstitious usages, or the least morosness.

Vpon such Anniversaries, she would be early att the Chappell, and sometymes I have knowne her shutt vp in the Church after the publick offices have been ended, without returneing to her Chamber att all, to prevent impertinent visitts and avocations, and that she might spend the day in continuall devotion. With these austerities passed she the dayes of abstinence; nay, though it fell vpon a festivall, and when others thought themselv's att liberty. This recalls to me an answer which she once return'd me, kindly reproveing her for a severity on a certaine holy day.

“As to fasting on a festivall,” (sayes she,) “I had not done it, butt that I had for it the opinion of a learned and reverend Bishopp, who told me it was not a fasting day of our owne makeing; wee might, when a fast and a feast of the Church meete, feast att Church and fast att home; which I did, and it was a good day with me: I could be content never to dyne soe long as I live, soe as I might spend every day like that.”

By this your Ladyshipp may see how well advised

she was in all she did, and what extraordinary gust and satisfaction she received in her devout intercourses.

Butt the truth is, not onely did she fast on dayes of Indiction, and such as the Church enjoynes: every meale was a day of abstinence with her, for as she seldome eate of above one or two dishes, where there were great plenty, soe very rarely would she have any sauces, and commonly chose the dryest and leanest morsells; and frequently have I knowne her deny her appetite things which I am certaine she lov'd, soe as I have made it now and then a little quarrell, for treating her selfe no better, considering her tender fabrick, early riseing, tedious and late watchings, laborious devotions, and not seldome even to fainting in her retirements. Butt she would tell me smileingly, that she was as strong as a lyon; and though I manifestly perceived the contrary, both by her countenance and other circumstances, that these austerities did her injury, she would disguise it with an industry soe naturall, and putt such life and chearfullness into her lookes and mine, as has made me call to mind what wee read of Daniell and his companions, (Dan. 1,) who after their asscetick foode, looked fairer and in better point then all the rest who eat of the Royall portion. "I can be fatt," (she would tell me,) "in three dayes when I will."

I forgott to remember your Ladyshipp, of her imploying most part of Lent in workeing for poore people, cutting out and makeing waistcoates and other necessary coverings, which she constantly distributed amongst them, like another Dorcas, spending much of

her tyme, and no little of her money, in relieving, visiting, and enquireing of them out. And whilst she was thus busy with her needle, she would commonly have one or other read by her, through which means, and a happy memory, she had almost the whole Scriptures by heart, and was soe versed in Doctor Hammond's Annotations and other practicall bookes, Controversyes, and Cases, as might have stocked some who pass for noe small Divines; not to mention sundry divine penitentiall and other Hymns, breathing of a Spiritt of holyness, and such as shew'd the tenderness of her heart, and wonderfull love to God.

Thus spent she the Sunday, feasts, or fasts; nor were the extraordinary weeke dayes other than Sundayes with her when none came to interrupt her course, which in some particulars was constant and unintermitted. For the Sun had not yett drawne the Curtaines of his purple bed, whose rising she oft prevented, and even sometymes the Morning watch, when this holy Virgin, wakeing, after a short Ejaculation to the Father of lights for the refreshment she had received, thus excites herselfe,—

*“ Up and be doeing, sleepe no more ;
Hark ! who is knocking att the doore ?
Arise, my faire one, come away ;
For thee I waite : arise, and pray.
Shake off thy Sleepe ; behold, 'tis I !
Canst thou love that, when I am by ?
Vaine thoughts, presume not to come near,
You'l find no entertainments here ;*

*My Love has sworn—her vows are past—
That I shall be her first and last.
Rise then, my dearest, come and see
What pleasures are reserv'd for thee.
I come, dear Lord. Behold I rise.
Thee, I beyond all pleasures prize."*

Doe not imagine I am pursuing a romance, or in a rapture myself, whilst I call her up with this angelick Hymne, since I can assure your Ladyshipp 'tis butt what I find under her owne hand, and amongst those devout transports and composures of hers, which I am certaine were her owne: and when she was in health she would be call'd whilst it was yett darke, to seeke her Lord, like those holy women that went early to the Sepulcher.

Noe sooner was she descended from her bed, but she fell on her knees in profound adoration; and all the time of her dressing,—which for the most part she finish'd of her selfe without other help,—her mayd was reading some part of Scripture to her, and when her assistance was necessary, she would take the booke herselfe, and read to her maid; thus continually imploy'd she her meditations, till she was fully dress'd; which she would be in a very little tyme, even to all the agreeable circumstances becomeing her, because indeed she became every thing, and this early rising and little indulgence to her ease, made her looke like a flower, lovely, and fresh, and full of health: being in this posture, she withdrew to private devotion in her closett, till her servant advertised her it was tyme to

goe to the Chappell, where she was ever with the first of the devout sex, were it never soe wett, cold, and darke, even before day breake, in midst of winter.

Return'd from Chappell, she would shutt her selfe upp in her little Oratorye againe, where, till the Queene requir'd her attendance, (for now I describe her as she was att Court,) she was either imployed in reading some holy booke, or getting some Chapter or Psalmes by heart, such as she had collected abundance of the most edifyeing ; neither omitted she to pray constantly with her small family, which she tooke great care to instruct upon all occasions. Nor did her fore-noone devotion determine here ; she not seldome might be found in the Chappell at ten a'Clock in the longer office. Nay, and I have sometymes mett her above in his Majestyes little oratorye before dinner, if conveniently she could slipp away from the mixt Company of the withdrawing Roome, whilst the Queene satt out ; and this she did, not out of singularity or superstitious devotion, or that she thought herselfe obliged to it, butt (as she has told me) to avoid occasions of idle and impertinent discourse, which was almost unavoidable in the Ante-Chambers.

Soe soone as her Majestye had dyned, (if it were her duty and turne to wayte,) and that she had alsoe taken her repast, if she owed no formall visitts, or were not interrupted by others, she usually spent the afternoone in workeing with her needle, which was comonly (butt espetially, as I noted, in Lent tyme,) makeing Coates and Garments for poore people, and

sometymes for great and rich, for there was nothing but [what] her delicate fingers could doe, and she had an Invention and fancy soe elegant and pretty, that when there was any thing extraordinary to be done in suiteing Ornaments and adjusting Ladyes' matters att Court, tho' she affected none of this her selfe, happy was the most illustrious of the Circle, [who] could have her to dress and sett them out.

She was sometymes engaged to pass the after dynner att Cards, especially when she came to Berkley House, (where was great resort,) more to comply with others, than that she tooke the least delight in it; and tho' being comonly extreamly fortunate, and very skillfull, she comonly rose a winner, and allwayes reserved her winnings for the poore, itt was yett amongst the greatest afflictions of her life, when, to comply with some persons of Qualitye, she satt any thing long att itt. How many sad complaints has she made to me of this particular: I tell you she looked on it as a Calamity and subjection insupportable. But neither did this nor any other consideration detaine her from being present att publick prayers att 3 or 4 a'clock, for she would then break off, and happ'ly take that opportunitye of makeing some visitt, if she had any to pay.

She had her houres also for reading historye and diversions of that nature; but allwayes such as were choice, profittable, and instructive, and she had devoured an incredible deale of that solid knowledge, and could accompt of it to admiration; soe as I have even beene astonished to find such an heape of excellent

things and materiall observations collected and written with her owne hand, many of which (since her being with God) came to myne, for besides a world of admirable prayers and pieces of flagrant devotion, meditations, and discourses on various subjects, (which she compos'd) there was hardly a booke she read that she had not common placed, as it were, or taken some remarkable note of; add this to the Diary of her owne life, actions, resolutions, and other circumstances, of which I shall give some specimen. She had contracted the intire historye of the Scriptures, and the most illustrious examples, sentences, and precepts, digested under apposite and proper heads; and collected together the result of every Article of the Apostles' Creed, out of Bishopp Pearson's excellent Treatise. I have already spoken of her Sermon Notes; butt to give a just Account of her Letters, they are soe many and in so excellent naturall and easy a style, that as for their number, one would beleive she did nothing else butt write, soe for their weight and ingenuity, that she ought to doe nothing else; and so easily did her Invention flow, that I have seene her write a very long letter without once takeing off her penn (butt to dipp it), and that with exterordinary Judgment; they were cogent, pathetick, and obliging, and allwayes about doeing some kind office or Religious Correspondence. Nor less was she indefatigable in reading; seldome stirring abroad without some good booke about her, that if by any accident she were to attend or be alone, she might lose no tyme; and indeed the tone of her voice (when she read to others) was soe suited to all the passions and figures either of reading or discourse,

that there was nothing more charmeing then to heare her recite with such a Spiritt and Judgment as the periods fell. 'Tis hardly to be imagined, the talent she peculiarly had in repeating a comicall part or acting it, when in a chearfull humour and amongst some particular friends, she would sometymes divert them; and I have heard her pronounce a Sermon in French which she had heard preached by a fryar in Paris vpon the profession of a Nun, att which she was present, that really surprized me. Those who had observ'd the fantastick motion of those Zealotts in the pulpitt would have seen in this Lady's action, invention, and preachment, the prettiest and most innocent Mimick in the World, and have really beleived it had been the Enthusiast himselfe, butt for his frock and face, that had inspired her: certainly she was the most harmeless and diverting Creature in nature. Butt as her witt was infinite, and in Conversation far superior to any of her sex, soe to curb it, had she such perpetuall apprehensions of God's omnipresence, that she industriously suppressed it. I could tell your Ladyshipp of some artificial helps she used, to keep her allwayes in mind of it: thus she would pin up some papers, as it were negligently, in places where she most frequently used to be, with some Character in it, or halfe word, that signified to her some particular duty or Caution; and though I never came to know this from her selfe, yett by some observations which I made, I am confident of what I say. Butt this she did to curb and restraine (I said) her sprightfull witt in perfect humility, and out of feare and tenderness lest she might offend; tho' never was Creature more dis-

creetly reserv'd, or that better vnderstood when and what it was fitt to speak and entertaine her friends.

To preserve her selfe then in this humble temper, and assist her more minute Confessions, she kept (as I have hinted) an account of her actions and resolutions, as since her decease I find. In this it was she sett downe her Infirmityes she laboured vnder, what deliverances she had from danger, what favour received, what Methods she resolved to take for the imployment of her tyme, and obligations laid vpon her selfe to performe what she soe resolved, which doubtless was a Course to keep her close to duty, as well as the frequent Counsellis of her Ghostly father upon all difficultyes by the constant Intercourse of Letters, soe as she [was] seldome in suspence, what she ought to doe upon any difficulty which might concerne her: and this infinitely contributed to the Chearfullness of her Spiritts and interior peace; she was really soe afraid that others should think too well of her, that she has sometymes bitterly accused herselfe, and was wont to send me an anniversary account of her faileings and Infirmityes, in which God knows there were very few, with a gratefull remembrance to God of her Improvements, which I knew to be much greater than she would acknowledge, desireing both advice and prayers for her.

As the Morning, soe in the Evening, itt was even in some exterdinary and indispensable buisness which att any tyme hindered her from the Church office, which if she missed att three a'clock, she would be sure to

find att six, whether she were abroad or att home ; and after that as constantly retired some competent tyme before Supper for recollection, Reading and private devotion ; and would sometymes walk abroad to contemplate the workes of God, for which she was furnish with proper meditations, which she could extend out of her owne stock, as I can witness, to my singular edification and no small admiration ; there was really nothing she cast her Eye upon, butt instead of impertinent wandring she would derive some holy use from.

“I wish you here betymes,” (one day writeing to me,) “that wee may walk together. I fancy I could talk of God for ever ; and, indeed, what else can wee speake of butt our God, of whome wee never can say enough :” for Tuesday being vsually the day I visitted her of course, whether wee walked into the Gardens, the fields, or within doores, the most agreeable conversation to her, was the contemplation of the workes of God ; [or] the contriveing how to bring about some charitable office ; and as she was strangely happy in composing differences, soe was she of soe lucky address and universally beloved, that what she undertooke she seldome failed of accomplishing. Generous as she was, and soe obligeing to her freinds, there hardly passed a day in which she had not done some signall kindness : nor disdained she the meanest Circumstances, soe she might doe good ; not to omitt how resolute she was in other dutyes. Nor in all these pious Labours, [was she] the least troublesome, scrupulous, singular, or morose, butt [of] the most easy and chearful conversation in the world.

Thus passed she the Evenings till Supper ; which she for the most part refused her selfe, spending that tyme in her oratory ; and if she did come downe, eating sparingly, retired againe soe soone as decently she could disengage her selfe to pray with her little family, and finish the rest of her private course before she went to repose. This your Ladyshipp knows and could speake to much better then my selfe, whilst you were fellow virgins and companions in holy duties ; and thus lived she to God and to her selfe. Let us now take a view how she conversed with others, Domesticks and Friends, after she was a Wife, and had a family to governe.

It is usually said of marryed people, "such a one has altered her condition," indeed, soe had shee. Butt in noe sort her Course. Itt could not be said of this paire, that those who are marryed cared for the things of this world how they might please one another, for never was there Lady pleased soe well as when she was careing for the things of the Lord, and this she did (if any ever did) without distraction, knowing that she could never please her husband better then when she was pleasing God ; soe as she was, (I may truly say,) the same [as] a wife and a virgin. And such a Marriage it was, I am perswaded St. Paul himselfe would have preferred above the celibate he soe highly comended, butt for which he had noe command, butt spoke on supposition.

She was none of those who would have excused her comeing to the divine and royall feasts because she

had married an husband; slacking in nothing of her former zeale and labours of love, without the least impeachment to her domestick Charge. Soe dextrously she knew to reconcile both those dutyes, that I beleive there never was family more an household of faith, never persons linked together in a more honourable, happy, and easy bond; for as she was an excellent Christian, she was a noe less unparalleld wife; I need not therefore describe this vertue to your Ladyshipp, or call that complaisance which was the height of a most vertuous affection; and reciprocall; for never were two persons soe framed for one another's dispositions, never lived paire in more peace and harmony; and yett, tho' this conversation was the most noble and becoming in the world, without troublesome fondness, yett she could not conceale the affliction she suffered when he was absent, as when he had been sometymes sent abroad by his Majestye, upon diverse publick concerns of State, nor the Joy that so spread it selfe in her countenance, and agreeable humour, when he was present. In a word, she was conversation as well as Companion for a wise and excellent person, soe as if ever two were created for each other, and marriages, as they say, made in heaven, this happy paire were of the number. O irreparable loss, never to be repaired on this side that blessed place.

For the prudent management of her domestick affairs, she was not to learne what ever might become the gravest or [most] experienced Matron as well as Mistress. She had soone made choice of such servants, and putt all things in such order, as nothing was more

easy, methodicall, and quiett; without singularity or affectation; nothing more decent and honourable. She provided them bookes to read, prayers to use by themselves, and constantly instructed them herselfe in the principles of Religion; tooke care for their due receiving of the holy Sacrament, and was in a word the best mistress in the world: wittness her bountifull remembrance of them att her death, of which I have allready spoken.

She tooke exact Accompt of her dayly expenses, which every Saturday she used to summe up, and never went on score; soe just and provident she was; making that a delight which others looke on as a Burthen,—namely, the care of her family, which she would goe through with an hardiness and masculine virtue, soe farr was she from being nice and delicate, that it infinitely became her. None knew better then she to buy and to chuse what was fitt, tempering a discreet frugalitie with a generous hand and a large heart; and if in any thing profuse itt was in her Charitye.

And that I have shewed your Ladyshipp how she lived to God and to herselfe, I have now to add how she conversed with her Neighbours, whom she loved as herselfe.

Your Ladyshipp is of too generous a Soule to forgett that particular affection she bore you to the last, the esteeme she had of your excellent sister and Relations: and methinks I still see the concerne she shewed, when you were preparing to goe into Holland about this tyme,

because her solicitude for your prosperity was accompanied with a tender friendship; which I find you would keepe in memory by the Instances you make to one, whome you justly think have noe less gratefull disposition to celebrate her vertues.

Indeed never was any Creature more obliging to her friends and Relations; to whose Civilityes, that she might be just, she not only kept a Catalogue of those she had a more particular esteeme of, butt would studdy all imaginable wayes to be serviceable to them. Wee both are wittnesses of the paines she would undergoe to proselyte vaine or indifferent Christians, and with what an admirable address she did it; without the least diminution of her selfe, or mean compliyanse to gaine friendship with esteeme; tho' she was scrupulously carefull not to multiply acquaintances, considering the precious moments that are lost in impertinent and formal visitts, and therefore reduceing [them] to a select and choice number. Nothing in the world did more afflict her then the trifling Conversation of some whome of Decency she was obliged to bear with, whilst there was not a visitt which she returned to such, butt with a secrett designe, how she might either reclaime those who were less reserved and circumspect, or confirme and incourage those that were more. Never should you hear her speake to the disadvantage of an absent person; butt if others did, she would be either silent and say nothing, unless where she could excuse them, or divert the discourse. In every thing else she had a wonderfull complacency of nature; which was infinitely improved by Religion, and a kind of univer-

sall Charitye, soe as to acomodate her selfe to all innocent humours. She would sing, and play, and act, and recite, and discourse prettyly and innocently a thousand harmeless and ingenious purposes to recreate old and melancholy persons, and divert the younger. She had kindness and good nature to sitt by the sick and peevish, read and pray by them with insuperable patience and chearfullness, and comply even with little Children; she played att any the most difficult games suiteable to their Conversation, and that skillfully: nor was there any resisting her agreeable way and governing spiritt; soe that (as I noted) the greatest Duchesses and Ladyes of the Court sought her friendship and assistance vpon any occasion of solemn pomp, Masque, Ball, or extraordinary appearance, because of a certaine peculiar fancy and address she had in suiteing, dressing, and continueing things of Ornament, with universall approbation, whilst in all these Compliances, she was watchfull of opportunityes to instill something of vertue and Religion, as well by her discourse as example, and in such a manner, as not only avoided the Censure of Impertinence and singularity, butt which more endeared her to them. What shall I say? she had all the pretty arts and innocent stratagems imaginable, of mingling serious things on all occasions, seasoning even her diversions with something of Religion; which, as she would manage it, putt to rebuke all their stocks of rayllery, soe as nothing was more agreeable then her Company where ever she came. Indeed there was nothing prooffe against the abundance of her witt and piety: she made vertue and holyness a chearfull thing, lovely as her selfe; and even in the Court,

how many of the greatest there, were made to looke upon Religion as a serious thing, yett consistent with their post. Butt this I need not recount to your Ladyshipp, there are yett some (and more I wish there were) who owe the tincture to this Lady, and will, I hope, retaine it; soe as, if ever it were an holy Court, 'twas when this Saint was the life of it. 'Twere easy to shew whome, by her Councell and address, she had rescued some from fatall precipices in that giddy Station; others, whome she has instructed, that were Ignorant or careless; some, that she gained to a severe Course, who were listning to folly and ruine: in a word, it was the pleasure of her life and the buissness of the day, to cast about how she might improve it to those advantages. O, were the Courts of Princes adorn'd and furnish'd with such a Circle wee should call it Heaven on Earth, and converse with Angells. Butt, to justifie this and all that I have affirmed concerning the piety of her thoughts, the passion she had to improve others, the richness of her Invention, naturall Eloquence, and beauty of her Style, I have no more to doe then to mind your Ladyshipp of a Letter, written by this Saint, when she was now gone from Court, of which I am well assured you are best acquainted, and can yett perhaps produce the orriginall; for my part I never read it butt I looke vpon it as inspired with an appostolick spirit.

“Deare Children, since you are both soe lowly in your owne Eyes, as to make use of me in a thing which either of you would have done better, butt that you distrust your selves,—namely the paraphrases

vpon the prayer lately sent you, I thought my selfe obliged deeply to consider it againe, and having done soe, cannot satisfy my selfe, unless I sett downe with Pen and Ink what my opinion is of it. As to your dressing, I can't beleive the Doctor meant there should be any neglect of that beauty God has given you, soe it be done with this Caution, first that you designe to captivate none for any satisfaction you take in the number of Lovers or in the Noise of a larger traine of Admirers than other young women have, butt purely for an honest designe of disingageing your selves as soone as you can from the place you are in, in an honorable way; and when ever you see any young Man, whome in your hearts you cannot beleive will prove that person I speak of, or any married Man, whome you know cannot, with such a one St. Paul sayes, you ought not to converse in the least; I meane, if possible to be avoided, and in this age, you know, women are not soe wonderfully solicited that have the vertue and modesty of you two. That good service the Ladys of other principles have done you, that men sooner find their Error, and without much difficulty suspected conversations may be avoided.

“Indeed, it would be a most dreadful sight att the last day, to see any man condemned upon your accounts; and yett such a thing may be, and yett you honest: for if you willingly consent men should looke upon you and follow you, you are accessary to that sinn in St. Mathew, ‘Who ever lookes on a woman to lust after her, hath committed Adultery with her already in his heart.’ Soe that my opinion is, that man-

kind, if they make any particular applications, tho' they don't make love, be, as much as you can, avoided. As to your Conversation, there is nothing forbidden butt what is either prophane, or unjust, or indevout; I meane, the encourageing of any of that in others, by seemeing well pleased with it: 'Tis true, wee should not preach in the withdrawing Roome, butt wee must, by our lookes, shew that wee fear God, and that wee dare not hear any thing to his prejudice, nor any thing filthy, or that tends to the prejudice of our Neighbour; and where any of these are found, there, as much as ever wee can, to avoid them. As to what wee say our selves, the same Rules are to be observed; and wee must take care that wee talke not to be the wittiest in the Company; to acquire praise to ourselves above our Neighbours. Wee may divert people, and be innocently merry; but then wee must not designe praise to our selves, nor please our selves (if wee have it) in the thoughts of it, butt in some short and silent prayer, desire God to keepe us low in our owne Eyes, as 'Lord, make me poore in spiritt, that I may inheritt the kingdome of Heaven,' or by calling to mind that saying of St. Paul, 'What hast thou which thou didst not receive, and if thou hast received it, why dost thou boast?' In short, wee must talke, to divert others, not to gaine applause to our selves, and if there be any that are able and willing to doe it, lett us not be impatient to preferr them before us. Butt this is butt sometymes to be done; 'tis not a fault if you should not allwayes be soe willing to keep silence whilst others speake.

“ As to your retirement after you come in, 'tis only to examine the day, and if you have been faulty, in all humility to acknowledge it to Almighty God, and whatever the fault has been, to read some portion of Scripture which concerns it, if you can find any ; if not, to read some Chapter in St. John's Gospell, especially the 15, or 16, or 17th, &c. that doe most divinely sett forth the Love of God to us. The reason why I urge this, is, that your sorrow for sin may proceed from the sence you have of God's great mercy and love to us ; and that Consideration will melt your hearts, and keepe you close, and make you desire to draw near him ; but Hell terrifies, and damnation amazes, and I am never the better for those reflections.

“ And after this is pass'd, you both being Good, and friends as well as Sisters, will doe well to contrive together how you may defeate the Divell, and make Solomon's words true, that 'two are better than one.' After this, in God's name, I know no harme,—if your devotions of the day and task that you assigne yourselves are over,—butt that you may be as chearfull as your Innocence can make you, which in both is very great.

“ As to one particular in the dress, I think I have not spoken concerneing the expensive part. Butt that only concerns ——, and Mrs. ——, whose purses are small, that they take care, upon noe account whatsoever, they exceed what their pension is, for noe duty to the Queene, in makeing a shew behind her, can excuse one from Justice to our Neighbour, before that God in whose

presence wee walke, and [who] will avenge the Cause of the wronged. Butt I am sencible not only this last, butt all I have said, has been not onely (as to my part) silly, butt as to yours, superfluous, only Love and Goodwill I dare say will plead my excuse before two soe good young Creatures for a greater fault than this, and therefore not doubting but I am forgiven, I will [end] with a prayer drawne from the Sermon wee heard this morning.

“That you two, who have soe gloriously and soe resolutely sett your selves to serve God in your younger dayes, may continue to be still what you are, examples of vertue and modesty in a Court, dutifull to your Misstress, obedient and loveing to your Mother, affectionate to each other, and charitable to all the world. Besides, may you be wise virgins, haveing Oyle in your Lamps ready prepar'd to meete the Bridegroom. May you be burning and shineing lights in the midst of a crooked and perverse Generation, and as the Minister said this day, ‘May you, as Samuel, and David, Josiah, Timothy, and St. John, be wholly dedicated to Gods Service, as was the first; zealous for his Glory, as was the second; constantly seeking the God of your fathers, as was the third; well instructed in Scriptures, as was the fourth; and at last may you (as St. John was) be admitted into the Bosome of our Dear Jesus, where you will have your short youth turned into Eternity, your earthly treasure to an heavenly, and your worldly greatness and power exchang'd for a Crowne of Glory.’ Amen with all my heart.”

And now, O blessed Saint, how dost thou shine above ! What a Circle of Starrs diadems thy Temples ! what a Jubilation amongst the Angells at thy access into the Glorious Hierarchy ! Verily, Madam, I have had thoughts above the world, when I sometymes considered the life of this excellent Creature, her rare examples, happy success, and the fruites which have been planted and cultivated by her holy Industrie and labour of Love, were it by her beauty, by her witt, her Conversation, her prayers and devotions, her zeal and pious Insinuations, her example or peculiar addresse ; being wily, she caught them by Craft, and as I said, I would sometymes call her the fisheress of her sex. What shall I add ? She was fortunate in all she sett her hand to, because she laid out all these perfections in the service of God, the winning of soules ; and great, great is her reward.

Nor did this confine her only to the Court, amongst the Great. I have already told how diligently she would inquire out the poore and miserable, even [in] Hospitalls, humble Cells and Cottages, whither I have sometymes accompanied her, as farr as the very skirts and obscure places of the Towne, among whom she not only [gave] liberall almes, but physitians and physick she would send to some, yea, and administer Remedyes herselfe, and the meanest offices. She would sit and read, instruct and pray, whole afternoones, and tooke care for their spirituall releif by procureing a Minister of Religion to prepare them for the holy Sacrament, for which purpose she not only carryed and

gave them bookes of Salvation and Devotion, but had herselfe collected diverse Psalmes and Chapters proper to be read and used vpon such occasions. How many naked poore Creatures she covered ! I have by me one List of no fewer then twenty three, whome she cladd at one tyme ; and your Ladyshipp may remember, and I have allready noted, for whome she wrought with her owne hands.

To assist her then in the disposing of these and innumerable other Charities, there was a poore religious Widdow, whome your Ladyshipp knew she had a more particular Confidence in. How she found her out, I never informed my selfe, but well remember a passage of something extordinary that happened to her concerning a Voice which she solemnly affirmed had spoken to her, being once att prayers in the Church and in great distress. I shall say nothing as to that, but that it was this pious and humble Creature, whose diligence she vsed, to informe her of sick and miserable people, who accompanied her to their Habitations, and brought them Cloathes, Mony and Medicines, and whereof they spent whole dayes in devotion togeather. By her it was she distributed weekly pensions, looked after orphan Children, put them to schoole, visited the prisons, out of which (amongst diverse others,) she had redeemed a dissolute son of hers, that cost a very considerable summe, as she had paid the debts, and indeed wholly maintained the Mother to her dyeing day, though being taken with a dead palsy, and in a manner bed ridden, a year or two before. She survived her Benefactress, but not her bounty : thus when she went

into Ffrance, she ordered me to continue many other pensions which she gave, and I could give you an account of what house rent she paid for indigent house-keepers, what Apprentices she put forth, and your Ladyshipp remembers, and I have allready touched, the little Child she kept allwayes with her, and cherished to the last. Soe sedulous was she in these acts of Charity, that from the tyme I could calculate, she had begun and persisted in this Course from a Child her selfe: and for the last 7 Years of her life, I can speake of my owne knowledge, that her liberality was soe disproportion'd to her Revenue, that I have sometimes called it profusion, at which she would smile, and bid me take no care. What she herselfe distributed more privately I know not, but sure I am it was a great deale more then ever she would discover, takeing all the Cautions imaginable, that nothing she did of this nature should be knowne, no not to her left hand what her right hand did, and therefore often would she herselfe walk out alone and on foote, and fasting, and in midst of winter, (when it was hardly fitt to send a servant out,) to minister to some poore creatures she had found out, and perhaps whome no body knew of besides, soe far had her love to God and piety to others overcome nature and the delicate tenderness of her sex and constitution.

See then what I find in her Diarye, among the Resolutions (as I said) she was wont to set downe in her owne hand. It seemes she had lost at Cards (a diversion which she affected not, but to comply with others,

when sometymes she could not avoid it). Behold, Madam, with what remorse, with what discretion.

“ June the 2d.

“ I will never play this halfe year butt att 3 penny omber, and then with one att halves. I will not; I doe not vow, but I will not doe it,—what, loose mony att Cards, yett not give the poore? ’Tis robbing God, misspending tyme, and missimploying my Talent: three great Sinns. Three pounds would have kept three people from starveing a month: well, I will not play.”

Here is a blessed Creature. ’Tis in this pretious Manuscript that I find an account of the particular mercyes she had received from God, amongst which that he had given soe religious a Mother, such good breeding, early receiveing the blessed sacrament, the prayers of holy people for her, and assistance of a spirittuall Guide, which (sayes she) I am confident was the reward of my receiveing at the Charter house. I take notice of it here, because ’tis there she blessed God that she had been serviceable, both to poore and Rich, in that he had been pleased to make her his Instrument, and soe goes on to thank him for the many personall dangers and accidents she had escaped, all which she particularizes. But to returne to her Charities, (than which I know no greater marke of a consummate Christian,) I may not omit that other branch of it, her visitting and releaseing of prisoners, of which I think I can produce a list of above thirty restrained for debts in severall prisons, which she paid and com-

pounded for at once. Nor were these (as I said) sudden fits of devotion, but her continued practice, and such as tooke up a considerable portion of her life; and such infinite satisfaction tooke she in this blessed Employment, as that often have I knowne her privately slipp away and breake from the gay and publique Company, the greatest entertainments, and greatest persons too of the Court, to make a stepp to some miserable poore sick Creature, whilst those she quitted have wondered why she went from the conversation; and more they would, had they seen how the scene was chang'd from a Kingly palace to some meane cottage, from the Company of princes to poore necessitous wretches, when by and by she would returne as chearfull and in good humour, as if she had been about some worldly concerne, and excuse her absence in the most innocent manner imaginable. Never must I forgett the infinite pleasure she tooke in doing Charities. 'Twas one day that I was with her, when seeing a poore Creatnre in the streets, "Now," sayes she to me, "how will I make that miserable wretch rejoyce." Upon which she sent him ten tymes more than I am confident he ever could expect. This she spake, not as boasting, but soe as one might perceive her very soule lifted up in secret Joy, to consider how the miserable man would be made happy with the surprize. Soe as summing all these Instances together, I might well compare this Lady to those excellent persons whose praise is in the Gospell, and whose names (St. Paull assures us, Acts x. 2,) are written in the booke of life, being like Cornelius and Dorcas, full of good works and Almes Deeds which she did; as Priscilla,

she instructed many more perfectly in the wayes of God; as Mary, she bestowed much labour; nor doe I ever think of her but I call to mind the Phebes, and Triphosas, Julia and Olympia, Claudia and to whome the Appostle would certainly have added Margarita, (this pearle of ours,) had she been then in the world, who were servants of the Churches, succourers of the Saints, helpers in Christ Jesus, and who were even ready to lay downe their lives for the Gospell. Soe flagrant was her zeale, soe pure her Charitye, soe vehement and sincere her love to God, as often to quitt the Ease and pleasures of life, and dismiss the Diversions of a Court, to possess those Divine and supernall pleasures of doeing good, and the blessing of him that was ready to perish came upon her who caused the widows heart to sing for Joy, for she was eyes to the blind, and feet to the Lame, in all things, shewing herselfe a patterne of good workes. In a word, her life did soe shine before Men, that those who saw her good workes could not butt be stirred up to glorifye God; yet by grace we are saved through faith, and not of our selves, it is the gift of God, not of workes, lest any man should boast, for we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good workes, which God hath before ordained that we should walke in them.

And now after all this, I need noe more produce her Diar ye, haveing given your Ladyshipp so minute an Account of her life and actions, I shall onely add, that to the particulars of the Mercyes she received, Resolutions made, and Graces which she desired, she composed many excellent Prayers, Praises, and Devo-

tions, pertinent to the occasion, and to which I might subjoine the wonderfull Condescension, already noted, in constantly giveing me once a year a little history of her life, and what had happened of most concerne in her particular, what faileings, and Improvements she was sencible of, with an Ingenuitye exterordinary, and breathing a pious friendship, desireing my direction and my prayers, which a thousand tymes I needed more than she, who had, (as your Ladyshipp well knows, and is already noted) a Ghostly father, with whome frequently corresponding, she constantly received proper Ministeryes and advice in matters cognizable to that sacred Character. To him it was she often revealed her Conscience, as from a Child she before had done to a devout and learned prelate of our Church, by the exterordinary Care of his [her?] pious and excellent Mother, as herself has told me, lookeing on it as the greatest blessing she had ever left her.

And thus, Madam, I have, according to the best of my poore ability, complied with your Ladyshipp's comands, and given you the Life of this Incomparable Lady: which though I may not have performed to the height and merit of the subject, I have yet me-thinks paid an obligation to the memory of one you loved, and that honoured me with friendship never to be forgotten, since it let me into a Conversation of soe great advantage. In a word, to justifie what I present your Ladyshipp, and summ up all. I have been oft partaker of her sadness and brighter dayes, wittness of her devoutest Recollections, accurate and exterordinary preparations, ardent Zeale, and unwearyed Devotions,

chearfull and even profusive Charities and labours of Love, for her secular concerns was only in order to Spirituall.

In summe.

Never was there a more unspotted virgin, a more loyall wife, a more sincere friend, a more consummate Christian; add to this, a florid youth, an exquisite and naturall beauty, and gracefullness the most becomeing. Nor was she to be disguised: there was nothing more quick and peircing than her apprehension, nothing more faithfull than her memory, more solid and mature than her Judgment, insomuch as I have heard her husband affirme to me (whose discernment all that have the honour to know him will allow to be extraordinary) that even in the greatest difficultyes and occasions, he has both asked and preferred her advice with continuall success, and with those solid parts she had all the advantages of a most sparkling witt, a naturall Eloquence, a gentle and agreeable tone of voice, and a charmeing accent when she spake, whilst the Charmes of her countenance were made up of the greatest Innocence, modesty, and goodness Imaginable, agreeable to the Composure of her thoughts, and the union of a thousand perfections: add to all this, she was Just, Invincible, secrett, ingeniously sinceere, faithfull in her promises, and to a Miracle, temperate, and mistress of her passions and resolutions, and soe well had she imployed her spann of tyme, that as oft as I consider how much she knew, and writt, and did, I am plainly astonished, and blush even for my selfe.

O how delightfull entertaining was this Lady, how grave her discourse, how unlike the conversation of her sex, when she was the most facetious, it would allwayes end in a chearfull composedness the most becoming in the world, for she was the tenderest Creature living of taking advantage of anothers Imperfections; nothing could be more humble and full of Compassion, nothing more disposed to all offices of kindness. In a word, what perfections were scatered amongst others of her sex, seem'd here to be united, and she went every day improveing, shineing brighter, and ascending still in vertue.

I should here add something concerning the obsequies and funerall of this blessed Saint, on which occasion is not to be omitted, the earnest request she soe provisionally made, that she might be interred in the Dormitorye of her husband's family and Relations, tho' it were not much less then three hundred miles distance from the place where she was borne and bred, that soe her ashes might hereafter be mingl'd with his whome soe intirely she loved; and which, after her Corps had been embalm'd and wrapt in Lead, was (as your Ladyshipp knows) as religiously perform'd, decently and with much honour, but without pomp or ostentation, on the 16th day of September, 1678, in the Church of Breague, in the parish of Godolphin, in Cornwall, of which that family have been Lords and of illustrious name both before and since the Conquest; and where, being alive, she had often in my hearing expressed such a longing desire to have passed the rest of her dayes, that, being remote from the noise of Cittyes, Courts, and the

subjecting Impertinences attending them, she might intirely vacate [to] the service of God : not but wherever she lived she did it as much as ever any blessed Creature did, but because she fancied she should doe it better there, which was impossible.

Here then let us leave our Saint at rest, but our selves at none, till by following her example wee arrive at that blessed repose whether she is gone before.

*For thou (deare Soule) to Heavens fledd,
Hast all the vertues with thee, thither ledd,
Wee here see thee no more.
Thou to that bright and glorious place
Art runn, hast won the Race :
A Crowne of Rayes,
And never fadeing Bayes,
Such as on Heaven's Parnassus grows,
Deck thyne Angelick Brows ;
A Robe of Righteousness about thee cast.
Bathed in Celestiall Bliss, thou there dost tast
Pleasures att God's right hand,
Pleasures that ever last,
And greater then wee here can vnderstand,
Butt are for such as serve him best reserv'd in store.*

2.

*How long, Lord, ah ! how long
Wate wee below !
Our soden feete stick in the Clay,
Wee thro' the bodye's Dungeon see no day.
Sorrows on sorrows throng,*

*Friendshipps (the souls of life) and frends depart
To other worlds, and new Relations know.*

Ah ! thou who art

The starry orbs above

Essentiall love,

Reach forth thy gracious hand,

And send me wings for flight,

Sett me vpon that holy Land,

O bring me to the happy shoare

Where no dark night

Obscure the day, where all is light ;

A Citty there not made with hands,

Within the blissfull Region stands,

Where wee in every streete

Our dearest friends againe shall meete,

And friendshipps more refin'd and sweete,

And never loose them more.

Amen.

FINIS.

EPITAPH.

IN MARGARITAM EPITAPHIUM.

*Here lyes a pearle none such the ocean yields
In all the Treasures of his liquid fields :
Butt such as that wise Merchant wisely sought
Who the bright Gemm with all his substance bought.
Such to Jerusalem above translates
Our God, t'adorne the Entrance of her gates.
The Spouse with such Embroderie does come
To meete her Nuptialls the Celestiall Groome.*

On the copper plate sothered on the Coffinn.

NOTES.

Page 1.

LADY SYLVIVS. Anne, daughter of William Howard, fourth son of Thomas, first Earl of Berkshire, and wife of Sir Gabriel Sylvius. See Table IV.

P. 3. "*An ancient Suffolke family.*" See Table I. and note attached to it.

P. 3. "*Mrs. Blagge.*" See the same table.

P. 4. "*Bishop of Ely.*" Dr. Peter Gunning, Bishop of Chichester in 1669, Bishop of Ely in 1674, who "can do nothing but what is well."—*Diary*, Feb. 23, 1673.

P. 5. "*Old Duchess of Richmond.*" Mary Villiers, sister of George, second Duke of Buckingham, and widow of James Stuart, third Duke of Richmond. See Table III.

P. 5. "*late Countess of Guilford.*" Elizabeth Fielding, cousin of the Duke of Buckingham and of the Duchess of Richmond. See Table III.

P. 5. "*Groom of the Stool.*" (Custos Stolæ.) The Countess of Guilford was succeeded, as "groom of the stole" to Henrietta Maria, by Lady Arlington (Isabella de Nassau, who afterwards married Henry Fitzroy, first Duke of Grafton). At a later period, in 1704, the Duchess of Marlborough was appointed "Groom of the Stole" to Queen Anne, but the title of her office was changed to "Mistress of the Robes." Elizabeth, the heiress of the great house of Percy and wife of Charles, (the proud) Duke of Somerset, was made "Groom of the Stole" in 1710. Since the accession of the House of Hanover, the title of "Groom of the Stole," has been given, I believe, exclusively, to the principal noble attendant on the person of the King, and

now, of the Prince Consort. In p. 56 Lord Rochester is called Master of the Robes, and Godolphin himself was appointed to that office in July, 1767. In some French memoirs, the title has been spelled "Grumstul," and a singular perversion of its meaning may be seen in the Memoirs of the Comte de Brienne.

P. 5. "*the late Queen's mother.*" An error for *Queen-mother*: viz. Henrietta Maria, who died Aug. 10, 1669.

P. 5. "*the then Duchess of York.*" Anne Hyde, daughter of the Lord Chancellor Clarendon, and first wife of James, Duke of York, afterwards James II.

P. 6. "*till the Duchess died.*" March 31, 1671.

P. 10. "*My Lady Falmouth.*" Elizabeth (or Mary?) Bagot, daughter of Hervey Bagot, who had been one of the maids of honour to the Duchess of York, and who was at this time the widow of Charles Berkeley, first Viscount Fitzhardinge and Earl of Falmouth, killed in the sea-fight with the Dutch, June 3, 1665. Pepys calls her, in 1666, "a pretty woman; she was now in her second or third mourning, and pretty pleasant in her looks." In July 1667, he says that she was about to marry young Jermyn: she however married, for her second husband, Charles Sackville, Earl (afterwards created Duke) of Dorset. See Table II.

P. 12. "*Some play to be acted by the maids of honour.*" See an account of what took place on Dec. 15, 1674.

P. 12. "*Duchess of Monmouth.*" The Lady Anne Scot, daughter and sole heir of Francis, Earl of Buccleuch, wife of James, Duke of Monmouth, who was beheaded July 15, 1685.

P. 12. "*That of Micha,*" rather Malachi iii. 17.

P. 15. "*Our families being neare to one another.*" The family seat of the Evelyns was at Wotton, in Surrey, where Evelyn often visited, although he did not reside there till May 1694. Ashted, near Epsom, belonged to Sir Robert Howard, uncle to Lady Sylvius: Deepden, now Mr. Hope's, belonged to Mr. Charles Howard, ancestor of the present Duke of Norfolk: and Albury, now Mr. Drummond's, was the residence of Henry Howard, afterwards Duke of Norfolk. All these places are at short distances from each other.

P. 15. "*Your mother and sister.*" Mrs. William Howard, [Elizabeth, daughter of Lord Dundas] and Dorothy Howard, afterwards Mrs. Graham. See Table IV.

P. 17. "*Your sister, then maid of honour.*" See the last note.

P. 19. "*Paulina and Eustochius.*" See p. 34, and all the accounts of St. Jerome.

P. 27. "*Att Whitehall, whither she came from St. James,*" to the Queen's service, after the death of the Duchess of York, in 1671.

P. 28. "*Mr. Godolphin sent abroad.*" In 1668 he accompanied his brother Sir William on a mission to Spain.

P. 31. "*At Berkley house.*" The splendid mansion built by Sir John Berkeley of Bruton, created Lord Berkeley of Stratton, at Hay Hill Farm, in the parish of St. James. The names and titles are still preserved in *John Street*, *Berkeley Square* and *Street*, *Bruton Street*, *Stratton Street*, *Hay Street*, *Hill Street* and also *Hay-hill*, *Farm Street*, and *Charles Street*, after Lord Berkeley's brother, Charles, Earl of Falmouth. Part of the gardens are still preserved in those attached to Devonshire House and Lansdowne (originally Bute) House. Some idea of their extent may be formed from this enumeration. A description of Berkeley House is given by Evelyn in his Diary, Sept. 25, 1672: no view of it is known to exist. Pennant, whose error is copied by many others, strangely attributes the building of this house to the family of the *Earls of Berkeley*: of course the scandalous anecdote introduced by him is equally out of place with his more sober narrative that Christian, Countess of Devonshire, lived "in the antient house—on the site of Berkeley House, where she received Waller and Denham, and where she died in 1674," (Jan. 16, 1674–5.) Now John, Lord Berkeley of Stratton, the builder of Berkeley House, did not die till the year 1678, and, after his death, his widow continued to reside there; for in 1684, Evelyn was consulted by Lady Berkeley of Stratton as to the propriety of building two streets in Berkeley Gardens, "reserving the house and as much of the gardens as the breadth of the house," ap-

parently Berkeley Street and Stratton Street. After the death of Lady Berkeley, the mansion was inhabited by the Princess (afterwards Queen) Anne until Jan. 1695.

The old town house of the Earls of Devonshire was not in Piccadilly, but in Bishopsgate, where Devonshire Square now stands; William, the second earl, died there in 1628. His widow, Christian, the loyal and exemplary Countess of Devonshire, did not reside in London, she lived and died a Roehampton in Surrey, in the house which had been inhabited by Weston, Earl of Portland, and now belongs to Mr. Robert Gosling the banker. It was at Roehampton, not in Piccadilly, that she received Waller and Denham. Her son William, the third earl, died in the same house in Nov. 1684. His son William, the fourth Earl (afterwards created Duke) of Devonshire, having, at first, no town house, rented and lived in Montague House (the British Museum in Great Russell Street), which was burned down during his occupation of it in Jan. 1686. After the accession of William III. "the Duke of Devonshire took it into his head, that could he have the Duchess of Portsmouth's lodgings (at Whitehall) where there was a fine room for *balls*, it would give him a very magnificent air." (Duchess of Marlborough's Defence of her Conduct, p. 29.) It is probable that the Duke purchased Berkeley House after 1695, and changed its name to Devonshire House, since Bishop Kennet says he died Aug. 18, 1707, in "Devonshire House, *Piccadilly*." The present Devonshire House, standing certainly on the site of Berkeley House, was not built by him, but by his grandson, the third duke, some time after the year 1730. To this house and to its builder applies the epigram composed by Horace (afterwards Lord Walpole of Wolterton), brother of Sir Robert Walpole, who, calling one day at Devonshire House, which was just finished, and not finding the Duke at home, left this epigram upon the table,

" Ut dominus, domus est ; non extra fulta columnis
Marmoreis splendet ; quod tenet, intus habet."

Sir John Denham, whose name being associated with that of the Countess of Devonshire perhaps misled Pennant, had a

house and gardens in Piccadilly, where Burlington House now stands, adjoining to which stood Lord Clarendon's famous mansion, afterwards the Duke of Albemarle's, the site of the present Albemarle Street, Dover Street, and Bond Street. The three mansions thus named, viz. Sir John Denham's, Albemarle House, and Berkeley House, occupied nearly the whole of the north of Piccadilly: the ground to the west of Berkeley House was divided into six fields, known as "Penniless Bank," "Little Brook-field," "Stone Bridge-field," "Great Brook-field," "Mr. Audley's land," and "Shoulder of Mutton field." To the north, Berkeley Gardens were bounded by the land "where graze the cows" of Alexander Davies, of Ebury, in Pimlico, whose daughter and heir, Mary, married Sir Thomas Grosvenor in 1676, and whose name is preserved in "Davies Street."

George, Lord Berkeley, of Berkeley, afterwards Earl of Berkeley, lived at another Berkeley House, in the parish of St. John's, Clerkenwell, on the site of the present Berkeley Street, which leads from St. John's Lane to Red Lion Street. His family had lived there for several generations, his father died there Aug. 1658, his third son James was baptized there, 1 June, 1663, and from the same house he writes on Feb. 23, 1678, to Pepys, who on the previous day acknowledges a letter from his lordship "*at St. John's.*" (Correspondence, vol. v. pp. 42-45.) In Clerkenwell also, in 1681, Lord Berkeley received a deputation (headed by Tillotson, then Dean of Canterbury) from Sion College, to which he had presented the library collected by Sir Robert Coke, son of Lord Chief Justice Coke. From the Coke family Lord Berkeley inherited Durdans, near Epsom, mentioned as his residence both by Evelyn and Pepys. Clerkenwell has long since ceased to be a fashionable neighbourhood, but in the seventeenth century it possessed the mansions of the Earls of Aylesbury, Berkeley, and Northampton, the Duke of Newcastle, the Challoner family, &c.: Bishop Burnet and many others attached to the court also resided there. The streets are many of them named after their former owners or inhabitants. The Marquis of Northampton still retains vast property in Clerkenwell and Islington.

P. 33. "*The mother of the maids.*" The Lady Sanderson, wife of Sir William Sanderson.

P. 33. "*Your two sisters.*" Apparently an error for "*you two sisters.*" See Table IV.

P. 34. "*My Lady.*" Lady Berkeley (see Table II.) was Christiana, daughter of Sir Andrew Riccard, Knight; and widow of Henry Rich, Lord Kensington, only son of Robert Rich, second Earl of Holland and fifth Earl of Warwick, by Elizabeth Ingram, his first wife. Sir Andrew Riccard was one of London's richest merchant-princes: he was President of the East India Company, and in that capacity figures in the great case of monopolies, *Skinner v. E. I. Company*. A marble statue, erected to his honour by the Turkey Company, of which he was president for eighteen years, still exists on his monument in the Church of St. Olave, Hart Street. He was knighted July 10, 1668, and died Sept. 6, 1672, aged 68.

P. 36. "*Her sister, the Lady Yarborough.*" See Table I. It may suffice here to state that this lady, [Henrietta Maria Blagge] whose conduct was not free from blame, has been mistaken by some editors of Grammont and by Horace Walpole for the subject of this memoir.

P. 37. "*The Dean of Hereford.*" George Benson.

P. 46. "*From Twickenham.*" "Twickenham Park, Lord Berkeley's country seat," Diary, March 23, 1676. It was lately the property of Mr. Francis Gosling, the banker.

P. 50. "*Play at Court before their Majesties.*" "Saw a comedie at night at Court, acted by the ladies only, amongst them Lady Mary and Ann, His Royal Highness' two daughters, and my dear friend Mrs. Blagg, who having the principal part, performed it to admiration. They were all covered with jewels." Diary, Dec. 15, 1674. The play was "*Calisto or the Chaste Nymph*," by John Crowne. It was printed in 1675, and a copy is preserved in the library of the British Museum. After the title-page is a list of the performers, all of whom however did not bear, at the time of acting the play, the titles which the printed list gives to them. The list is as follows:

Calisto, a chaste and favourite nymph of Diana, beloved by

Jupiter. "Her Highness the Lady Mary," a daughter of the Duke of York, and afterwards Queen of England.

Nyphe, a chaste young nymph, friend to Calisto. "Her Highness the Lady Anne," a daughter of the Duke of York, and afterwards Queen of England.

Jupiter, in love with Calisto. "The Lady Henrietta Wentworth," rather Henrietta, Baroness Wentworth, which dignity descended to her on the death, in 1665, of her father, Thomas Wentworth, last Earl of Cleveland. She is well known from her disgraceful connexion at a later period with the Duke of Monmouth, whom she did not long survive, dying on April 23, 1686.

Juno. "The Countess of Sussex." Lady Anne Fitzroy, daughter of Charles II. by the Duchess of Cleveland and wife of Thomas, Lord Dacre and Earl of Sussex.

Psecas, an envious nymph, enemy to Calisto, beloved by Mercury. "The Lady Mary Mordant," daughter and heir of Henry, second Earl of Peterborough: she married in 1677, Henry, seventh Duke of Norfolk, from whom she was divorced in April, 1700. She afterwards married Sir John Germaine, to whom she left a great part of the Peterborough estates.

Diana, goddess of Chastity. "Mrs. Blagge, late maid of honour to the Queen." MRS. GODOLPHIN.

Mercury, in love with *Psecas*. "Mrs. Jennings, maid of honour to the Duchess." Sarah Jennings, afterwards married to John Churchill, the great Duke of Marlborough.

The "Nymphs attending on Diana, who also danced in the Prologue, and in several Entries in the Play," were

"The Countess of Darby." Dorothea Helena, daughter of John Poliander de Kirkhoven, by Catharine, Countess of Chesterfield, daughter of Thomas, second Lord Wotton. The Countess was widow of Charles Stanley, eighth Earl of Derby, who had died Dec. 21, 1672.

"The Countess of Pembroke." Henriette de Querouaille (sister to the Duchess of Portsmouth), wife of Philip Herbert, seventh Earl of Pembroke. Bishop Kennett spells the name *Carewell*.

"The Lady Katharine Herbert." Sister-in-law to the preceding, being daughter of the fifth Earl of Pembroke, by Katharine, daughter of Sir William Villiers of Brookesby.

"Mrs. Fitz-Gerald." Probably Katharine (daughter of John Fitz Gerald of Dromana), who married in 1677, Edward Villiers, eldest son of George, fourth Viscount Grandison.

"Mrs. Frazier, maid of honour to the Queen."

The "men that danced" were

"His Grace the Duke of Monmouth."

"The Viscount Dunblaine." Edward Osborne, Lord Latimer, one of the Gentlemen of the Bedchamber to Charles II., eldest son of Thomas, Earl of Danby (afterwards created Marquis of Carmarthen and Duke of Leeds). After the representation, but before the publication of the piece, the Earl of Danby was created Viscount Dunblaine in Scotland, which dignity was assumed as a title of courtesy by his son, Lord Latimer. By Table I. it will be seen that the present Duke of Leeds is the lineal representative of Mrs. Godolphin.

"The Lord Daincourt." Robert Leake, eldest son of Nicolas, second Earl of Scarsdale, whom he afterwards succeeded in that title.

"Mrs. Moon."

"Mr. Harpe."

"Mr. Lane."

Neither in this list, nor amongst the names given in the Diary, is the name of the Duchess of Monmouth, whom Evelyn here mentions as one of "the shineing beautyes" who performed. It is probable that Evelyn's Diary written at the time, corroborated as it is by the published list, is the more correct on this point. The Duchess of Monmouth too had some years before met with a severe accident whilst dancing, which caused an incurable lameness. See Pepys' Diary, Sept. 20, 1668.

P. 54. "*The Countess of Suffolk*." "Was at the repetition of the pastoral, on which occasion Mrs. Blagg had about her neere 20,000*l.* worth of Jewells, of which she lost one, worth about 80*l.*, borrow'd of the Countess of Suffolk. The press was so greate, that 'tis a wonder she lost no more. The Duke

made it good." Diary, Dec. 22, 1674. The Countess of Suffolk was Barbara, daughter of Sir Edward Villiers, (see Table III.) widow of Sir Richard Wentworth, and second wife of James Howard, third Earl of Suffolk. She died in 1681.

P. 56. "*The master of the Robes, now Earle of Rochester.*" Laurence Hyde (second son of the Chancellor Clarendon) created Earl of Rochester at the end of 1682, a fact which proves that Evelyn did not write this life until some years after Mrs. Godolphin's death.

P. 56. "*Dr. Lake.*" John Lake, afterwards Bishop of Chichester.

P. 58. "*My lady Hamilton.*" "A sprightly young lady, much in the good graces of the [Berkeley] family, wife of that valiant and worthy gentleman George Hamilton, not long after slain in the wars. She had been a maid of honour to the Duchess and now turned Papist." Diary, 12 Nov. 1675. This was Frances Jennings (elder sister of Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough) widow of Sir George Hamilton, grandson of James, first Earl of Abercorn, and brother of Count Anthony Hamilton, author of the *Memoires de Grammont*. Lady Hamilton afterwards married Richard Talbot, created Duke of Tyrconnel, and is well known as the Duchess of Tyrconnel. After this it is curious to read in Pennant's words, "Above stairs (at the New Exchange in the Strand) sat, in the character of a millener, the reduced Duchess of Tyrconnel, wife to Richard Talbot, lord deputy of Ireland under James II. a bigoted papist, and fit instrument of the designs of the infatuated prince, who had created him Earl before his abdication, and after that Duke of Tyrconnel. A female, suspected to have been his duchess, after his death, supported herself for a few days (till she was known and otherwise provided for) by the little trade of this place: having delicacy enough not to wish to be detected, she sat in a white mask, and a white dress, and was known by the name of the *white widow*." This story, if true, forms a singular contrast to that which Pepys relates of her in his Diary, 21 Feb. 1664-5, "What mad freaks the mayds of honor at court have! That Mrs. Jennings, one of the Dutchesse's maids,

the other day dressed herself like an orange wench, and went up and down and cried oranges ; till falling down, or by some accident, her fine shoes were discerned, and she put to a great deal of shame." The Duchess of Tyrconnel died in Dublin 7 March, 1730 ; her husband died Aug. 14, 1691.

P. 59. "*Ambassador to the Court of France.*" John, Lord Berkeley, of Stratton, (see Table II.) left England on this Embassy 14 Nov. 1675. Evelyn in his Diary for Oct. and Nov. in 1675, gives many particulars. If we were to trust to the editor of Evelyn's Diary and to the noble editor of Pepys', the Lord and Lady Berkeley, so often named as Mrs. Godolphin's warm friends, were George Lord Berkeley, afterwards created Earl of Berkeley, and his wife Elizabeth, daughter and co-heir of John Massingbeard, esq. of Lincolnshire, and in the absence of all connexion between them and the families of Blagge and Godolphin there would be great difficulty in showing any probable cause for the friendship, not to call it patronage, which Mrs. Godolphin and her husband received. The editors of Evelyn and Pepys have unfortunately fallen into the error, which I have pointed out as having been committed before them by Pennant, of confounding the two Lords Berkeley, if not the two "Berkeley-houses."

Lord Berkeley of Stratton, originally known as Sir John Berkeley, and in the service of Charles I. at the same time with Colonel Blagge, Mrs. Godolphin's father, was concerned with John Ashburnham and Colonel Legge in the flight of Charles I. from Hampton Court to the Isle of Wight, a vexed point of history, on which Lord Clarendon's misstatements have been well corrected by the late Earl of Ashburnham. During the exile of the royal family he became the favourite of James, Duke of York, whose favour he never lost ; although he was represented to Charles as the secret agent of the Court of France, and as the known enemy of the Chancellor Clarendon and his party. The Chancellor's enmity Berkeley shared alike with Ashburnham and Legge, the first however obtained his peerage in 1658, as the price of James' return to his brother Charles ; the others, although high in favour with Charles II. were en-

nobled in the persons of their descendants. Clarendon makes the enmity between himself and Berkeley to arise from his opposition to Berkeley's claim to the mastership of the Court of Wards: James II. in his Memoirs, from Clarendon's advice to Lady Morton to reject Berkeley's proposals of marriage. Lady Morton, one of the brightest ornaments of "the beautiful race of Villiers," was Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Edward Villiers, niece of the Duke of Buckingham, and widow of Robert Douglas, 8th Earl of Morton, who died in 1649. Whilst Lady Dalkeith, and during the stay of Charles the First's family at Exeter, she had had the charge of the Princess Henrietta, afterwards Duchess of Orleans, and to her Fuller inscribes his "Good Thoughts in Bad Times." Her noble rescue of her royal ward, whom she carried on her back to Dover, in the disguise of a beggar and her child, is well known. Lady Morton died in 1654. Besides enjoying the personal favour of the Duke of York, Berkeley was a near kinsman of the influential Harry Jermyn, Earl of St. Albans, who, as we see by the table of the Blagge family, was also a relative of Mrs. Godolphin: the close connexion of the Berkeley and Godolphin families fully accounts for the long and intimate friendship which existed between them.

After the Restoration Berkeley's rise was rapid, and his employments numerous. In 1660 he was appointed a commissioner of the Admiralty, in June 1662 a privy counsellor for Ireland, and soon afterwards Lord President of Connaught. In 1664 he was made a master of the ordnance, and in 1665 a commissioner of Tangier. All these offices he held at the same time, and so early as 1663, Pepys says that Lord Berkeley boasted of having gained £50,000 in the navy alone. This sum appears so great that I suspect some error in the transcription of Pepys' Diary. If it be true, there can be no wonder that, in 1665, we read of Berkeley's beginning a house at St. James', next to the Lord Chancellor's, nor at Evelyn's mentioning, in 1672, that it had cost £30,000. He had also more indirect ways of obtaining money through his influence with the Duke of York, as Pepys mentions in 1668. In April 1670 Lord

Berkeley was appointed Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, where he remained till August 1672. In October 1674, he was named to the embassy to France, in which he was accompanied by Mrs. Godolphin and by Evelyn's son. From this embassy he returned in June 1677, and in the following year he died.

As Evelyn and Pepys' Diaries may be consulted, I add the following corrected index to the places where Lord Berkeley of *Stratton* is meant, (8vo. editions). Evelyn ii. 255. 260. 373-375. 398. 413. 417. 421. 425. iii. 90. 117. 177. 338. Pepys i. 115. 121. 122. 163. 282.; ii. 21. 101. 132. 141. 173. 224. 238. 249. 250. 256. 346. 423.; iii. 167. 183. 228. 236. 386. 395.; iv. 62. 174. 181. The other places relate to George, Lord Berkeley, of Berkeley, afterwards Earl of Berkeley, viz. Evelyn, vol. ii. 136. 140. 147. 198. 214. 335; vol. iii. 67. Pepys, vol. i. 39. 95. 305.; vol. ii. 80.; vol. iii. 87. 230. 291.; vol. v. 42-45.

P. 65. "*Nothing like Pinto's Travels.*" The name of Fernam Mendez Pinto will ever remain associated with falsehood and exaggeration. He lived in the 16th century, but his travels were not translated into English until 1663, whence probably Mrs. Godolphin's acquaintance with them. Congreve's well known lines, almost become proverbial, (and which it is impossible to quote without remembering their witty application by the present Bishop of Llandaff,)

" Fernam Mendez Pinto was but a type of thee,
Thou liar of the first magnitude !"

Love for Love, Act ii. Sc. 5.

were not written until after Mrs. Godolphin's death. Claude's *Défence de la Réformation*, written in reply to the Jansenist Nicole, was first published in 1673, so that at the time of Mrs. Godolphin's visit to Paris, the book must have had the additional charm of novelty.

P. 65. "*That baile of theirs.*" Perhaps for *bale*, sorrow, or destruction.

P. 65. "*My charge your son.*" "I settled affaires, my sonn being to go into France, with my Lord Berkeley, designed ambassador extraordinary for France, and plenipotentiary for the general peace of Nimeguen." Diary, 15 Oct. 1675. This

son was John Evelyn, great-grandfather of the present Archbishop of York. At this time he was about nineteen years of age.

P. 66. "*My Lady H.*" Lady Hamilton, see p. 58.

P. 67. "*Mr. Bernard Grenville,*" of Abs-Court at Walton on Thames in Surrey, "an old house in a pretty parke." Diary, 17 Sept. 1673. In August 1672, Bernard Grenville had been sent on a mission to Savoy, and it was probably on his return from this mission that he escorted Mrs. Godolphin to England. He was the second son of Sir Beville Grenville, killed at Lansdowne fight, whose eldest son, Sir John Grenville, the bearer of Charles II.'s messages to the Lords and Commons, was created Viscount Lansdowne and Earl of Bath. After the death, without issue, of William, grandson of the first Earl of Bath; George, second son of Bernard Grenville, was created Lord Lansdowne in 1711. He is well known from his poetical talents.

P. 68. "*Dr. Warnett's in Covent Garden, whose wife was her near relation.*" Of this relationship I find no trace.

P. 70. "*Lease she had of certaine lands in Spalding.*" See Diary of 9 Nov. 1676. "Finished the lease of Spalding for Mr. Godolphin."

P. 70. "*Her pretty habitation in Scotland Yard.*" "To London, to take order about building an house, or rather an apartment which had all the conveniences of an house, for my deare friend Mr. Godolphin and lady, which I undertook to contrive and survey, and employ workmen, till it should be quite finished, it being just over against his majesties wood yard by the Thames side, leading to Scotland Yard." Diary, 12 Sept. 1676.

P. 73. "*The picture she some years since bestowed upon me.*" See preface to this volume.

P. 74. "*My lady Viscountess Mordant.*" Elizabeth Carey, daughter and sole heir of Thomas, second son of Robert, Earl of Monmouth, wife of John, Viscount Mordaunt of Avalon, eldest son of John, Earl of Peterborough.

P. 74. "*Your ladyship and sister Gr*"(aham). Dorothy

Howard, wife of Colonel James Graham of Levens. See Table IV.

P. 74. "*Mr. Ashmole's att Lambath.*" This visit was on the 23rd of July, and on the same day, "Mr. Godolphin was made master of the robes to the King." On the 25th July, Evelyn adds, "there was sent to me £70 from whom I knew not, to be by me distributed among the poore people: I afterwards found it was from that deare friend (Mrs. Godolphin) who had frequently given me large sums to bestow on charities." It is scarcely necessary to say that the museum called "Mr. Ashmole's att Lambath" is now the Ashmolean at Oxford. Of the MSS. which Evelyn mentions in his Diary, a catalogue has recently been printed by the University.

P. 77. "*Mr. Harvey, treasurer to her Majestye.*" John Hervey, eldest son of Sir William Hervey of Ickworth; he was a great favourite with Charles II. a leading man in Parliament, and a patron of letters: he died 18 Jan. 1679.

P. 79. "*Dr. Needham.*" Diary, Nov. 4, 1679. "Went to the funerall of my pious, dear and ancient learned friend, Dr. Jasper Needham, who was buried at St. Bride's Church. He was a true and holy Christian, and one who loved me with greate affection."

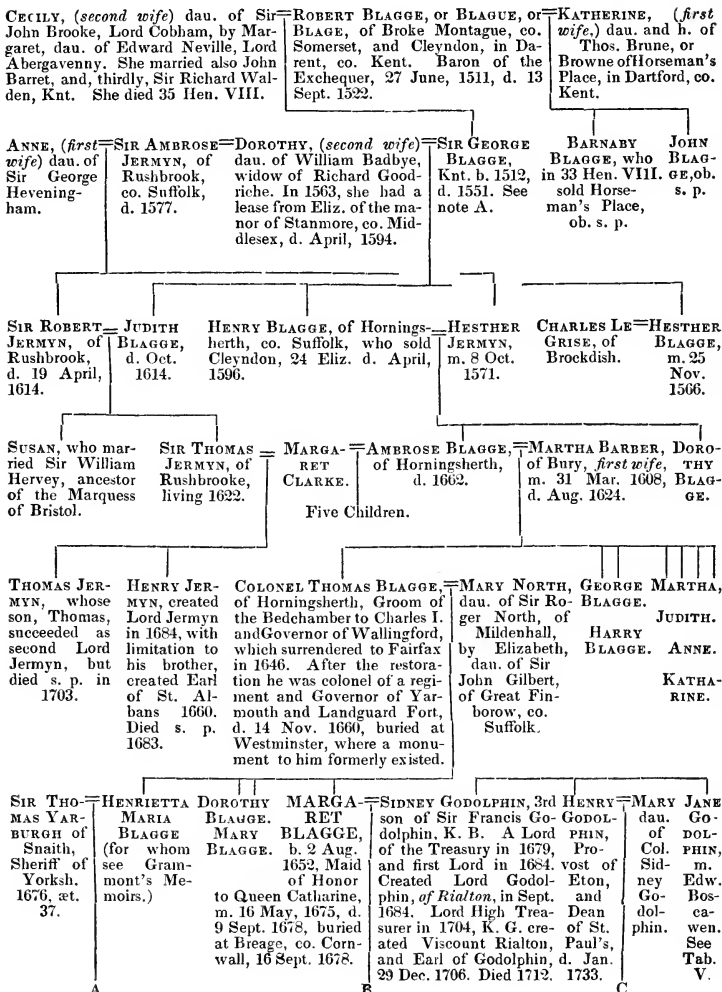
P. 79. "*Dr. Short.*" Dr. Peregrine Short, "reputed a papist, but who was in truth, a very honest good Christian," and by whose advice Charles II. had first taken the Jesuits back. Diary, 20 Nov. 1694.

P. 82. "*Mrs. Boscawen,*" her sister in law, see Tables I. and V.



TABLE I.

PEDIGREE OF BLAGGE AND GODOLPHIN.



A

B

C

A

B

C

Ten children, of whom two were maids of honor. The youngest of these (Alice), was maid of honor to Queen Anne, dying at Windsor in 1786, æt. 97. The other (Henrietta Maria) married Sir Marmaduke Wyvill, bart. of Constable Burton, co. Yorkshire.

FRANCIS GODOLPHIN, 2nd Earl of Godolphin, and Viscount Rialton, b. 3 Sept. 1678, created in 1735, Lord Godolphin of *Helstone*, with remainder to the issue of his uncle Henry. Died 17 Jan. 1766.

HENRIETTA CHURCHILL, eldest dau. and co-heir of John, Duke of Marlborough. Duchess of Marlborough in her own right. Died 24 Oct. 1733, æt. 53.

FRANCIS GODOLPHIN, 2nd Lord Godolphin of *Helstone*. Ob. s. p. 1785.

1. THOMAS = HENRI-
PELHAM ETTA
HOLLES, GODOL-
Duke of PHIN,
Newcas- m. 2
tle, K.G. April,
1717, d.
s. p.

HENRY
GODOL-
PHIN, died
young.

THOMAS OS-
BORNE, 4th
Duke of
Leeds, b. 6
Nov. 1713.
K. G. d. 23
Mar. 1789.

2. MARY GO-
DOLPHIN,
m. 26
June,
1740, d. 3
Aug. 1764,
æt. 41.

WILLIAM GODOL-
PHIN, called Vis-
count Rialton, af-
terwards Marquis
of Blandford, ob.
s. p. 24 Aug. 1731,
whereby the Marl-
borough titles and
estates passed to
Spencer, Earl of
Sunderland.

MARY CATERINA
D'YONGHE, d. of
Peter d'Yonghe,
of Utrecht, m. 15
April, 1729; she
remarried, 1st
June, 1734, Sir
William Wynd-
ham, Bart. and d.
1779, s. p. Buried
at Mortlake.

THOMAS OS- BORNE, Mar. dau. and h. of Robert, last Earl
quis of Car- of Holderness, and Baroness Con-
marthen, b. yers, remarried in 1779, John By-
1747, d. 1761. ron, esq. (father of Lord Byron)
and died in 1781.

FRANCIS GODOLPHIN =
OSBORNE, 5th Duke
of Leeds, born 29 Jan.
1751, died 31 Jan.
1799.

CATHARINE ANGUISH,
(second wife) m. 1788,
Mistress of the Robes
to Queen Adelaide, d.
1837.

GEORGE WIL-
LIAM FREDER-
IC OSBORNE.
6th Duke of
Leeds, Baron
Conyers, b.
1775, m. 1797,
d. 1838.

CHARLOTTE
TOWNS-
HEND, dau.
of George,
1st Marquis
Townshend.

FRANCIS GO-
DOLPHIN OS-
BORNE, b.
1777, m. 1800.
Created in
1832, Lord
Godolphin
of *Farnham*
Royal.

ELIZABETH THO-
MAS PEL-
EDEN, dau. of William,
1st Lord Earl
Auckland. Chi-
ches-
ter.

MARY HEN-
RIETTA JU-
LIANA OS-
BORNE, b.
1776, m.
1801.

SIDNEY GODOL-
PHIN OS-
BORNE, b. 16
Dec. 1789.
CATHARINE ANNE
MARY OSBORNE
b. 1798,
m. in 1819
Cap. John
Whyte
Melville.

FRANCIS = LOUISA
GODOL- CATHA- OS-
PHIN RINE BORNE,
D'ARCY CATON. b. 1802,
Os- m. 1824.
BORNE, 7th Duke
of Leeds, b. 1798,
m. 1828.

WILLIAM = CAROLINE
STEW- b. 1804,
ART. m. first
Emma
Smith,
in 1832.

CAROLINE SYDNEY =
MONTAGU, GODOL-
(sec. wife) PHIN
dau. of Os-
BORNE, b. 1800,
in holy
orders.

EMILY,
d. of
PAS-
COE
GREN-
FELL.

D'ARCY GODOL-
PHIN OSBORNE
b. 1814.
CHAR-
LOTTE OSBORNE
b. 1805,
m. Sir T.
H. L.
Brinckman,
Bart. d. 1838.

NOTE A.

SIR GEORGE BLAGGE deserves more notice than the mere mention of his name in the preceding table.

He was born in the year 1512, and was educated at Cambridge.¹ At a comparatively early age he was introduced at the Court of Henry VIII.² and in the absence of other criteria we may judge favourably of him from the characters of his two chief companions and friends, the Earl of Surrey and Sir Thomas Wyat. In October, 1543, when the Imperialists under the immediate eye of Charles V. aided by the English under the command of Sir John Wallop, formed the siege of Landreci,³ which Francis I. hastened to relieve in person, Surrey with other young nobles, joined the English forces, and was accompanied in his expedition by G. Blagge. Both incurred personal danger, and Sir John Wallop mentions in a letter to the King a narrow escape of Blagge⁴ in these terms. "Yesterday, Blagge, who arrived here with my Lord of Surrey, went with Mr. Carew to see the said trench, and escaped very hardly from a piece of ordnance that was shot towards him."

A proof of the high estimation in which Blagge was held by Surrey, is afforded by the following beautiful lines, prefixed to his version of the lxxiii. Psalm.⁵

*"The sudden storms that heave me to and fro,
Had well near pierced Faith, my guiding sail.
For I that on the noble voyage go
To succour truth, and falsehood to assail,
Constrained am to bear my sails full low:
And never could attain some pleasant gale.
For unto such the prosperous winds do blow
As men from port to port to seek avail.*

1) Works of Surrey and Wyat, by Nott, vol. i. p. xevi.

2) Strype's Annals (Oxford Ed.), vol. ii. pt. ii. p. 419.

3) Surrey and Wyat, vol. i. app. xxxix.

4) Ib. vol. i. p. lvii.

5) Surrey and Wyat, vol. i. p. 80.

*This bred despair ; whereof such doubts did grow
That I gan faint, and all my courage fail.
But now, my Blage, mine error well I see ;
Such goodly light King David giveth me."*

In a court like that of Henry VIII. high favour was near akin to danger and to death, and Blagge escaped as hardly from the fires in Smithfield as from the French cannon at Landreci. In 1546, when Wriothesley and Gardiner commenced their persecutions on the statute of the Six Articles, he was taken up as a "favorer of the Gospel,"⁶ and was only saved by Henry's personal interposition. Fox's narrative is this :⁷

"Here would also something be said of Sir George Blage, one of the King's Privy Chamber, who, being falsely accused by Sir Hugh Caverley, knt. and Master Littleton, was sent for by Wriothesley, Lord Chancellor, the Sunday before Anne Askew suffered, and the next day was carried to Newgate, and from thence to Guildhall, where he was condemned the same day, and appointed to be burned the Wednesday following. The words which his accusers laid unto him were these : 'What if a mouse should eat the bread ? then, by my consent, they should hang up the mouse : ' whereas, indeed these words he never spake, as to his life's end he protested. But the truth (as he said) was this, that they, craftily to undermine him, walking with him in Paul's Church, after a sermon of Dr. Crome, asked if he were at the sermon. He said 'Yea.' 'I heard say,' saith Master Littleton, 'that he said in his sermon, that the mass profiteth neither for the quick nor for the dead.' 'No,' saith Master Blage, 'Wherefore then ? Belike for a gentleman, when he rideth a hunting, to keep his horse from stumbling.' And so they departing, immediately after he was apprehended (as is shewed) and condemned to be burned. When this was heard among them of the Privy Chamber, the King, hearing them whispering together (which he could never abide) commanded them to tell him the matter. Whereupon the matter being opened, and suit made to the King, especially by the good Earl of Bedford, then Lord Privy Seal, the King, being sore offended with their doings, that they would come so near

6) Strype's Memorials, vol. i. pt. i. p. 598.

7) Fox's Acts and Monuments, 1135 (ed. 1546).

him, and even into his Privy Chamber, without his knowledge, sent for Wriothesley, commanding eftsoons to draw out his pardon himself, and so was set at liberty : who, coming after to the King's presence, ' Ah ! my pig ' (saith the King to him, for so he was wont to call him). ' Yea,' said he, ' if your Majesty had not been better to me than your bishops were, your pig had been roasted ere this time.' "

Fox is in error⁸ when he speaks of Blagge as one of the Gentlemen of the Privy Chamber, a post which he never held, and also in calling him at that time *Sir George Blagge*. Fox antedates Blagge's knighthood, an honour which was conferred on him in 1547, by the Protector Duke of Somerset, whom, whilst Earl of Hertford, Blagge accompanied in the Expedition to Scotland.⁹ Blagge was knighted after the fight at Mussleborough,¹⁰ and in the same year he and Sir Thomas Holcroft were made Commissioners of the Musters.¹¹ In 1548-9 occurred that tragedy wherein one Seymour, the Lord Admiral, fell by the warrant of his own brother, the Protector, Duke of Somerset, himself destined to fall under the same axe. Some of the depositions of the witnesses against the Lord Admiral have long since appeared ;¹² those of the Marquis of Dorset, the Lord Russell, (Privy Seal) *Sir George Blagge*, and Lord Clynton, have only recently been brought to light.¹³ Blagge's evidence tends to prove the criminal projects of the Lord Admiral.

In 1550 died Lord Wriothesley, at whose hands whilst Lord Chancellor, Blagge had incurred such imminent peril. His narrow escape may account for, although it cannot excuse the severity of the only remains of Blagge's writings ; which are lines on the death of Wriothesley. Dr. Nott, by whom they were first printed,¹⁴ and in whose work they may be found, says that he gives them " from the Harington MS. more from the circumstance of their having been written by one of Surrey's friends than from any merit they possess."

8) Strype's Annals, vol. ii. pt. ii. p. 419.

9) Surrey and Wyat, vol. ii. p. lxxxiii.

10) Holinshed, vol. iii. p. 888.

11) Holinshed, vol. iii. p. 868.

12) In Haynes' State Papers from the Burghley Collections, belonging to the Marquis of Salisbury, at Hatfield.

13) From the State Paper Office, by Mr. Fraser Tytler in his " England during the reigns of Edw. VI. and Mary," vol. i. pp. 146, etc.

14) Surrey and Wyat, vol. i. p. xcvi.

On the 17th June in the following year, 1551,¹⁵ Sir George Blagge died at Stanmore in Middlesex, of which his wife Dorothy afterwards obtained a lease from Queen Elizabeth.

Sir Thomas Wyatt was wont to say that he cherished three friends in particular—"Poynings for the generosity of his disposition, *Blagge for his wit*, and Mason for his learning."¹⁶ In a letter from Lever to Ascham¹⁷ it is said, in allusion to his loss, that England was "punished, as to courtship, by *Gentle Blage*."¹⁸

15) Gage's History of Suffolk.

16) Surrey and Wyatt, vol. ii. p. lxxxiii.

17) Strype's Cheke, p. 89.

18) By a statement in Nott's Surrey and Wyatt, vol. ii. p. lxxv. it would seem that Blagge did not die until after his friend Wyatt's execution in 1553, as he was appointed to offices previously held by Wyatt, viz. "Keeper of the King's Messuage at Maidstone," and "High Steward of Maidstone."

TABLE II.

SHEWING THE CONNEXION BETWEEN SIDNEY GODOLPHIN AND THE FAMILY OF LORD BERKELEY OF STRATTON.

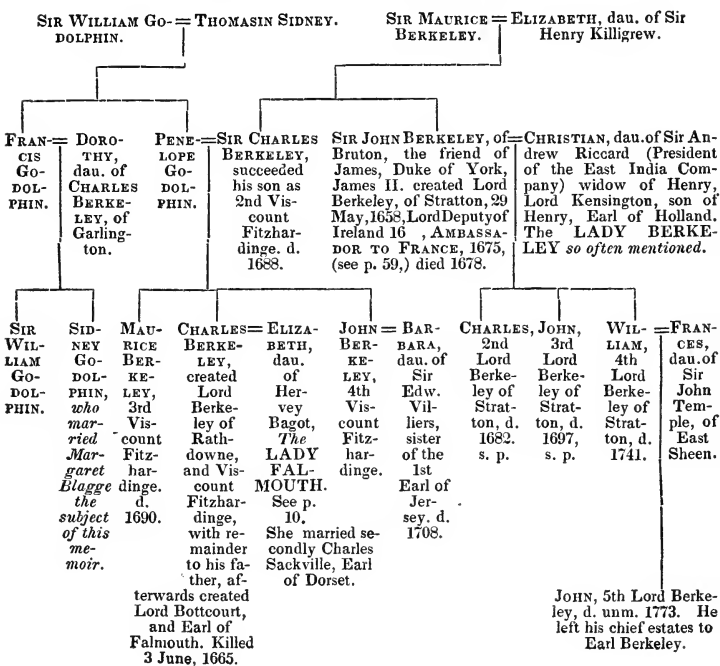


TABLE III.

TO SHEW THE PATRONAGE EXTENDED TO MRS. GODOLPHIN BY THE DUKE OF BUCK- INGHAM'S FAMILY.

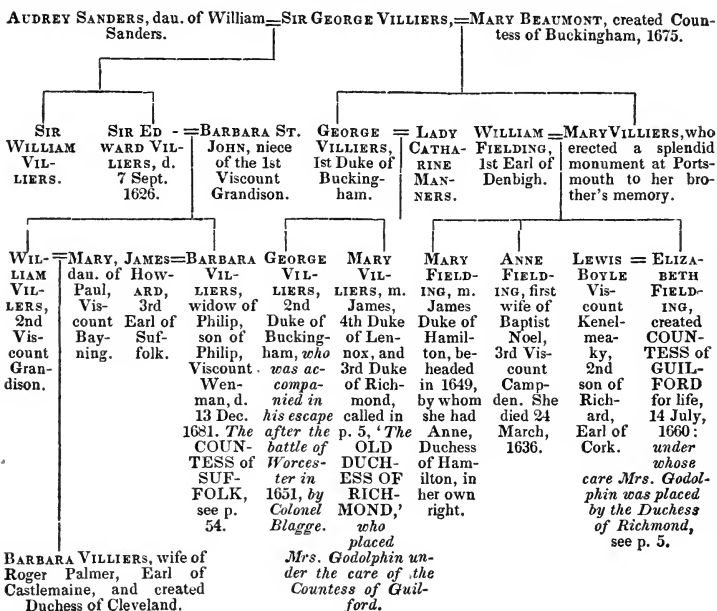


TABLE IV.

SHEWING THE DESCENT AND CONNEXIONS OF LADY SYLVIVS.

THOMAS HOWARD, first Earl of Berkshire, 2nd son of Thomas, Earl of Suffolk, d. 1669. = ELIZABETH CECIL, dau. and co-heir of William Earl of Exeter.

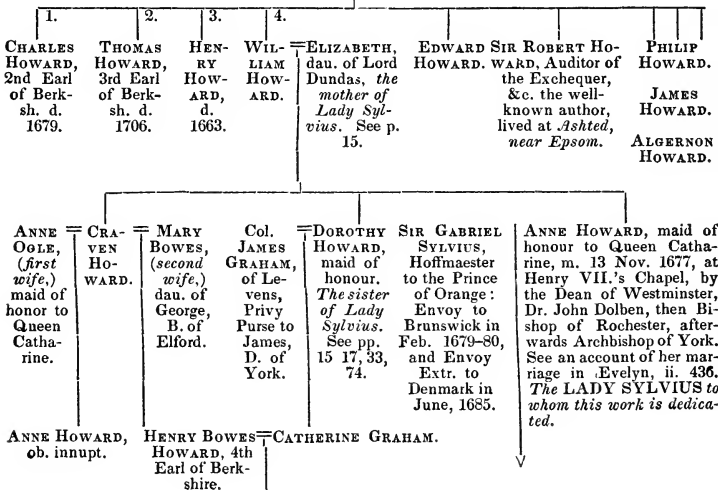
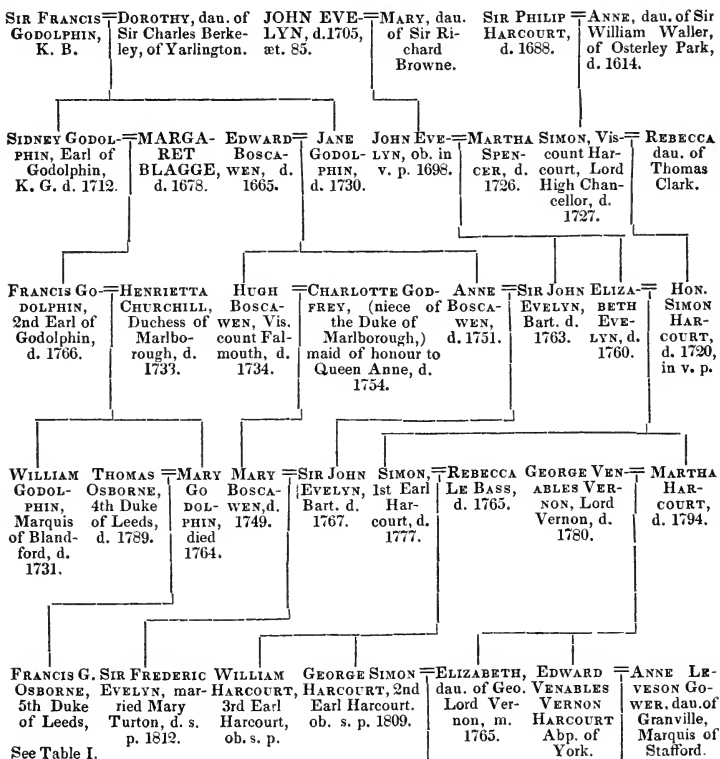
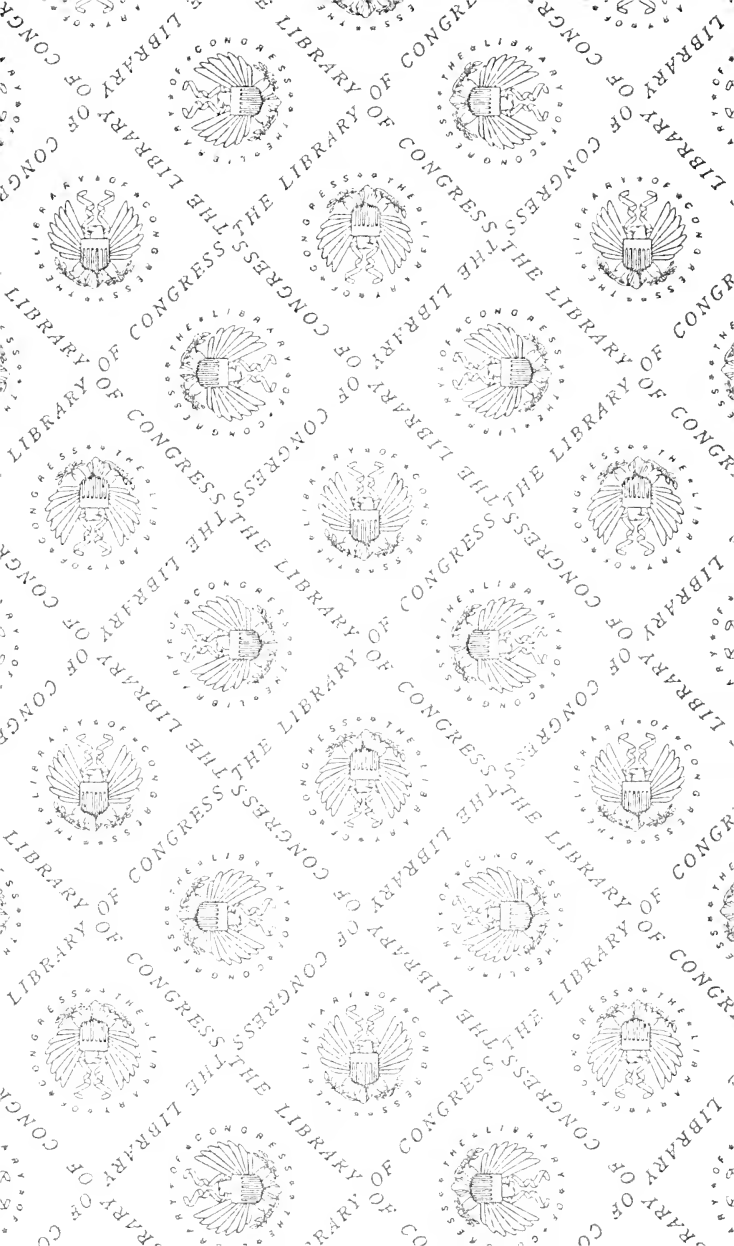


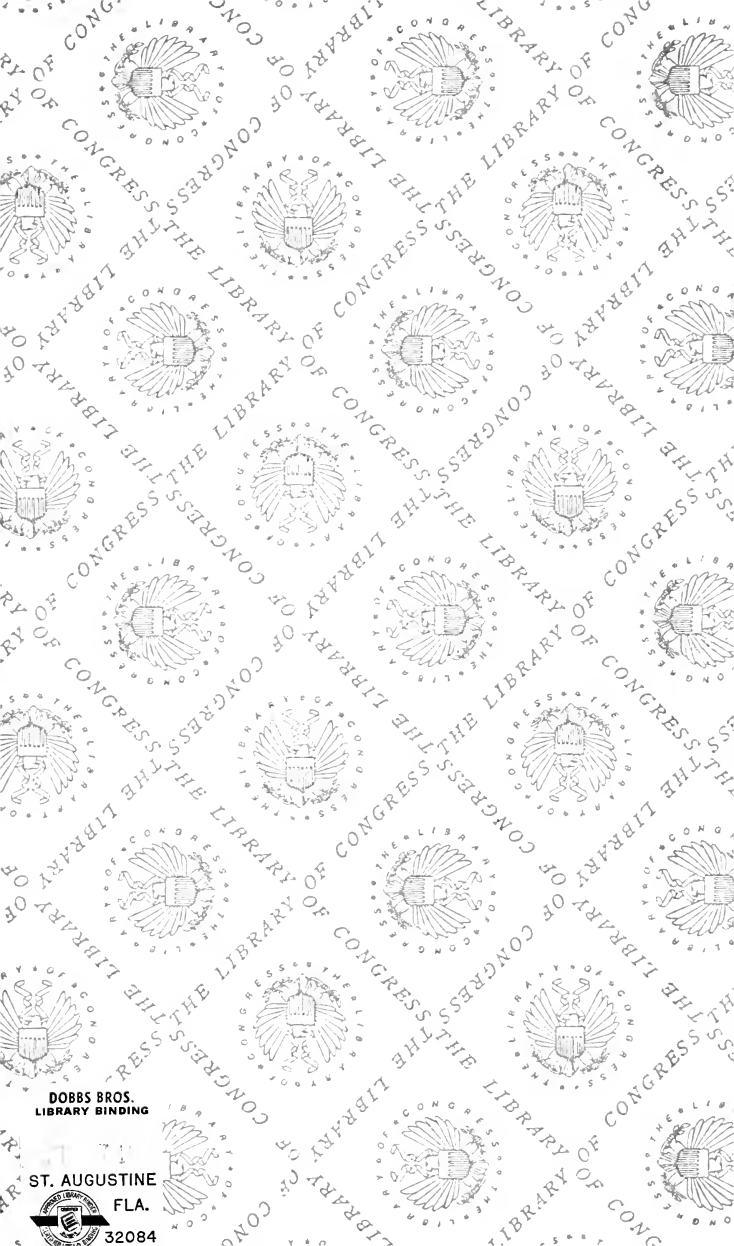
TABLE V.

SHEWING THE CONNEXION BETWEEN THE FAMILIES OF GODOLPHIN, EVELYN, AND HARCOURT.



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